




LIBRARY OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

977.365  
C83h

I . H . S .





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2012 with funding from  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

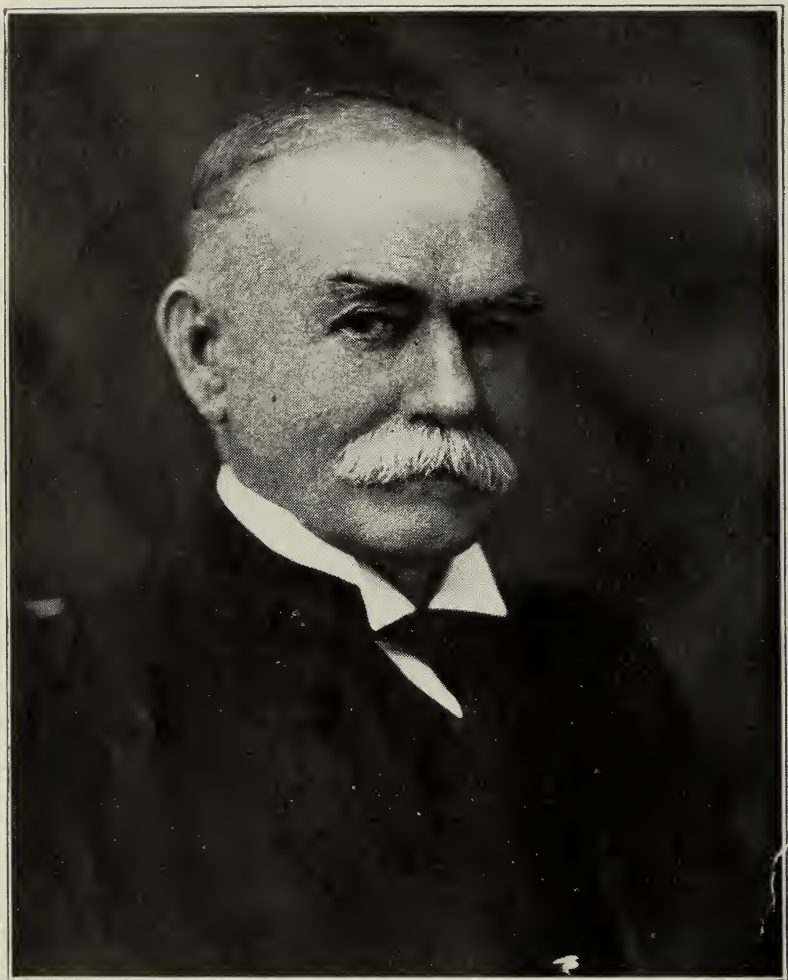








LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



**J. S. M'FERREN**  
**First Mayor of Hoopeston**

# *A History of* HOOPESTON

"WORLD'S GREATEST CORN CANNING CENTER"

*Published By*  
The Chronicle-Herald

*"Hoopeston's Community Newspaper"*



To those men who so nobly responded to their country's  
call in time of need and who brought honor to the  
folds of the flag they kept unstained – the mem-  
bers of Ira Owen Kreager Post, No. 384,  
Department of Illinois, American  
Legion, this book is affection-  
ately dedicated.

Compiled and Edited by S. V. Cox






21 Dec 42  
57.565  
C83 W

## P R E F A C E

---

 HIS book represents the labor of six month in preparing it for the public and represents many years of foresight on the part of The Chronicle-Herald, Hoopeston's Community Newspaper, in collecting and preserving data of historical value with a view to saving it for posterity in the form in which it is herewith presented.

Every painstaking care to make it as accurate as is possible has been taken. It was designed to tell the civic, commercial, industrial and social story of Hoopeston from the date of the founding of the city to the present date. Within its covers can be found information that has never been placed in book form before. It represents the first actual history of Hoopeston alone, that has ever been published and in years to come when the city has grown greatly and another half century has passed by, will form the foundation for historians who will undoubtedly take up this work after the city has passed its One Hundredth Anniversary.

Grateful acknowledgment is made for the aid rendered by the following persons without whose efforts this book would not have been possible: General Passenger Agent E. H. Batchelder, of the C. & E. I. Railroad; Ex-Mayor I. E. Merritt, of Hoopeston; Ex-Mayor John A. Heaton, of Hoopeston; Leroy Songer, of Hoopeston; E. H. Gustine, of Hoopeston; Leonard D. Roark, of Hoopeston; Bertha M. York, of Hoopeston; Judge Dale Wallace, of Hoopeston; the various industrial enterprises and business concerns of the city and the Central Illinois Public Service Company of Hoopeston.



# Table of Contents

---

## CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY ..... PAGES 1 TO 26

The Founding of Hoopeston .....	Chapter I, Page 1
1878 to 1895 .....	Chapter II, Page 7
1895 to 1919 .....	Chapter III, Page 12
1919 to 1925 .....	Chapter IV, Page 19
Political Subdivisions .....	Page 25

## HOOPESTON IN THE WORLD WAR..... PAGES 27 TO 50

General Review .....	Page 27	The Draft Board.....	Page 45
Company B, .....	Page 29	Red Cross .....	Page 46
War Service .....	Page 32	War Chest .....	Page 47
The Honor Roll .....	Page 39	Liberty Loans .....	Page 48

## LODGES AND ORGANIZATIONS..... PAGES 51 TO 67

Ira Owen Kreager Post, American Legion .....	Page 51	Modern Woodmen .....	Page 60
Harmon Post, No. 115, G. A. R. ....	Page 56	The Royal Neighbors.....	Page 62
Daughters of American Revolution .....	Page 57	The Knights of Columbus..	Page 62
Masonic Lodges .....	Page 59	Hoopeston Lodge I. O. O. F.	Page 65
		Mary Hartwell Catherwood Club .....	Page 65
		L. O. O. M. ....	Page 66

## COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES ..... PAGES 68 TO 85

General Survey .....	Page 68	The First National Bank...	Page 75
Chamber of Commerce.....	Page 69	Newspapers .....	Page 77
Hoopeston National Bank..	Page 73	Business Directory .....	Page 80

## INDUSTRIAL HOOPESTON ..... PAGES 86 TO 113

Illinois Canning Company..	Page 86	P. H. Webber Co. ....	Page 100
Hoopeston Canning Co. ...	Page 88	A. W. Murray Co. ....	Page 101
Sprague-Sells Corporation,	Page 91	Telephone Company .....	Page 104
Vermilion Malleable Iron,	Page 96	C. I. P. S. Co. ....	Page 105
The American Can Co.....	Page 98	C. & E. I. Railroad .....	Page 107
The Iliff-Bruff Company..	Page 99	Nickel Plate Road .....	Page 108
Ice & Cold Storage Co....	Page 99	General Review .....	Page 111

## **PARKS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS .....PAGES 114 TO 124**

The Federal Building...Page 115	McFerren Park .....Page 121
The Public Library.....Page 117	City (North) Park .....Page 122
The City Hall .....Page 119	Union Park .....Page 123
City Waterworks .....Page 120	Floral Hill Cemetery.....Page 123
City Schools .....Page 120	

## **HOOPESTON CHURCHES .....PAGES 125 TO 137**

General Review .....Page 125	St. Anthony's Catholic
First M. E. Church.....Page 127	Church .....Page 135
First Church of Christ....Page 129	Society of Friends
First Presbyterian Church Page 130	(Quakers) .....Page 136
United Presbyterian	Christian Science Church Page 136
Church.....Page 131	Free Methodist Church...Page 137
Universalist Church.....Page 133	Other Denominations.....Page 137
Baptist Church .....Page 124	

## **THE COLD NEW YEAR .....PAGES 138 TO 140** By "Ol' Settler"—Robt. F. Cooper

### **ADVERTISING SECTION**

C. & E. I. Railroad.	The Lorraine Theater
Sprague-Sells Corporation.	Hoopeston National Bank
The Chronicle-Herald	The First National Bank
The American Legion.	The Illinois Canning Company
The Iliff-Bruff Chemical Co.	The Hoopeston Canning Company
The Hoopeston Chamber of Com- merce	The Central Illinois Public Service Company.

### **FULL PAGE ILLUSTRATIONS**

J. S. McFerren, First Mayor of Hoopeston.....	Frontispiece
Alba Honeywell, Mayor 1879-1880.....	Page 8
Charles A. Allen .....	Page 10
Charles F. Dyer .....	Page 14
William Moore .....	Page 16
D. J. McFerren, Mayor 1925.....	Page 22
G. H. Couchman, City Attorney, 1925.....	Opp. Page 24
Major E. C. Thornton and Horse.....	Page 28
Captain John H. Steward .....	Page 31
First Lieut. Mitchell S. Cash.....	Page 33
Second Lieut. Lloyd P. Petry .....	Page 35
Company B, 129th Infantry.....	Opp. Page 36

Ira Owen Kreager .....	Page 52
The Lorraine Theater .....	Opp. Page 68
George E. Evans .....	Page 71
William McFerren .....	Page 74
"Judge" Dale Wallace .....	Page 76
Chester A. Aldrich .....	Opp. Page 78
Robert R. Rodman .....	Opp. Page 80
The Hoopeston Canning Company .....	Page 89
The Sprague-Sells Canning Machinery Plant.....	Page 93
The Vermilion Malleable Iron Company.....	Page 97
The Town Clock Building .....	Page 114
The Methodist Church Parsonage .....	Page 126

## OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS

Name	Page	Name	Page
Thomas Hoopes .....	2	Hoopeston National Bank.....	72
D. M. Shankland .....	13	I. E. Merritt .....	73
C. S. Crary .....	15	C. W. Warner .....	78
H. C. Finley .....	15	Dr. J. M. Hannell.....	81
John A. Heaton .....	19	John F. Ost .....	81
Walter Holmes .....	23	B. R. Burton .....	81
L. D. Wood .....	23	L. E. Alkire .....	82
Dr. A. J. Clay .....	24	Dr. F. P. Johnson .....	84
Sgt. E. R. Deck .....	36	Ogden S. Sells .....	91
Lieut. Alba Cromer .....	39	Ralph Webber .....	100
F. K. Boudinard.....	39	Kelly A. Cardiff .....	116
Col. Green and Staff.....	38	J. H. Dyer .....	117
L. H. Deck .....	40	Carnegie Library .....	118
Lieut. A. J. Dallstream.....	40	Greer College .....	120
Capt. C. F. Dyer .....	41	W. R. Lowery .....	121
Capt. L. B. Dyer.....	41	McFerren Park Pavilion .....	122
Lieut. Harry Kivell .....	42	Methodist Episcopal Church....	127
Lieut. J. B. Kerr .....	42	Rev. C. H. Young .....	128
Louis J. Willett .....	42	First Church of Christ.....	129
Lieut. Claude Forshier.....	43	First Presbyterian Church.....	131
Lieut. C. S. Miller .....	43	United Presbyterian Church....	132
E. C. Thornton .....	44	Universalist Church .....	133
Lieut. Ralph Stine .....	45	Baptist Church .....	134
Franklin Johnson .....	55	First Catholic Church in Hoopeston .....	135





# The Founding of Hoopeston

---

Coming of The Railroads—Laying Out of the City—The Town of Leeds—The Village War—Efforts of Pioneer Residents—Completion of First Building—The First Newspaper—The First School Building—Incorporation of Village of Hoopeston—Village Government — City is Incorporated — First Election of City Officers—The Saloon Question.

---

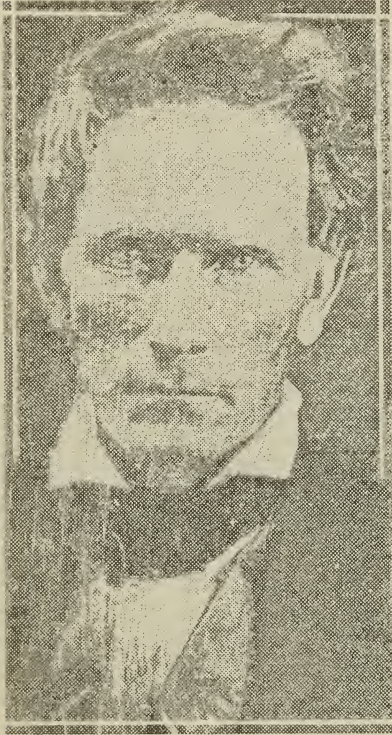
In the year 1870 twin agents of civilization and improvement were extending their way across eastern Illinois; two railroads, one of them known as the Chicago, Danville and Vincennes, (now the Chicago and Eastern Illinois) the other The Lafayette, Bloomington and Western, (later the Lake Erie and Western, and now a branch of the Nickle Plate Railroad.) Had the original plan of the Chicago road been followed, it would have crossed the Lafayette, Bloomington & Western about two miles east of the present crossing. But there were three considerations taken into account concerning the point of intersection. These were: the proposed crossing was in a low flat location; Thomas Hoopes offered to give 80 acres of land to have the crossing west, on the hill near the present Cunningham farm; and for services rendered the promoters felt under obligations to Alba Honeywell to let him select the point of intersection. Mr. Honeywell chose the site of the present intersection. The railroad company then offered to name their station Honeywell, which honor was declined.

The country was sparsely settled in 1870. The highlands were cultivated partly, the low lands had not been touched and the balance was used for pasturage. Very little of it had ever been fenced. It was in this condition in 1871, when the proposed railroad lines had been surveyed through this section by engineers. Settlers had little faith in the actual coming of the railroad, scoffing at it as "the effort of men who had more money than brains."

The lines of the Lafayette, Bloomington & Western were surveyed, staked out and construction work started. This road reached the intersection first, in 1871, and it was not until May,

1872, that the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes reached the crossing. It was at once seen that the new railroad intersection would make a desirable place for the founding of a town. Milford was the nearest place on the north, Oxford on the east, Rossville on the south and Paxton on the west. Realizing this, some quick work was done in buying land and platting it into town lots.

Adjacent to the spot where the railroads crossed were forty acres of land, known as the "lost Forty," (because of the difficulty of finding the previous



**Thomas Hoopes**

owners) then owned by Joseph M. Satterwhaite, who with Thomas Hoopes, in 1871, laid out on a part of this tract, and on land owned by the latter, the original town of Hoopeston, Illinois, which consisted only of the lots fronting on West Main street and a tier of lots facing Penn street. Additions, located south on what is now known as on lands which nearly surrounded the Satterwhaite tract, followed in rapid succession.

At this time land in this section was selling at \$6 or less an acre. Alba Honeywell, acting as the agent of Young & Co., one of the two railroad construction companies, through Gideon Davis, an agent for the Hoopes land, had attempted to buy forty acres at \$25 per acre, but a misunderstanding arose which prevented completion of the deal. Mr. Honeywell then secured an interest in the Thompson land, adjoining the above mentioned

tracts on the north and proceeded to survey and plat North Hoopeston; which embraced lands adjacent to and north of the present Nickle Plate railroad and east of the now C. & E. I. railroad. Adjoining this tract on the east at about this time William Moore and Noah Brown laid out Moore & Brown's addition to the City of Hoopeston.

Meanwhile, Snell, Taylor and Mix, of Chicago, Railroad Construction Company, bought 1,000 acres of land on the west side of the Chicago railroad and in November, 1871, laid out the land in lots and called their town Leeds. This addition extended west to present Sixth Avenue and south four blocks and one-half to

Maple street. Strife broke out between the two rival sections of the city in an effort to name the entire city. Leeds scored the first victory in this battle when they obtained the postoffice and caused it to be named Leeds. Its location was shortly after changed to Hoopeston and was moved into the original town where it has remained since.

The first postoffice was established in October, 1871, and J. M. R. Spinning was appointed postmaster, a position he continued to hold until 1878. Old documents in the possession of post-office officials at the present day set the salary of this first postmaster, Mr. Spinning, at \$12 per year. In addition to this salary \$8 per year was allowed for transportation of mails from Rossville to Hoopeston, it being necessary to bring the mails from that city in a buggy. The first mail arrived on the 9th of December. It was not until January 1872 that mail came by the trains into Hoopeston.

While the struggles between the north and west sides were in progress others were not idle. Roger Casement was early in the fight. He bought and platted a tract of land extending from Market street two and one-half blocks east and from Penn street two blocks south, which he called Casement's addition and upon this tract the first residence was built, on the southeast corner of Washington and Fourth streets.

The first store building was completed and occupied on Lot 69, Main Street, by David Bedell, who stocked it with general merchandise in 1871. This was soon followed by the first hardware store by William Moore and W. A. Brillhart.

In October 1871 religious services were first held in Hoopeston in the store of a Mr. McCracken. For many months this store was the headquarters for religious instruction. No denominational factions had arisen and no credentials were required other than that a man could preach in order to occupy McCracken's pulpit. The Methodist society was organized in 1872, by the Rev. F. B. F. Hyde, of Rossville, and presiding elder, Rev. Preston Wood. The preaching was at first conducted at McCracken's store. The United Presbyterian Church and the First Presbyterian Church were both established in May, 1872, and were followed by the Baptist Church in 1873. The First Church of Christ, (Christian) was organized in June 1873, by Elder Rawley Martin with 12 members. There were representatives of the Friends Society (Quakers) here at Hoopeston from the laying out of the new town. Joseph M. Satterwhaite was one of the leaders of this sect and it was at his home that first meetings were held. In the fall of 1873, Isaac T. Lukens erected a building at the corner of Third and Main streets and arranged it as a meeting house.

The struggle between the north and west sides kept up for several years. One of the features of this fight was the part played by George H. White, who graded many of the streets on the



west side and planted miles of soft Maple trees. To Mr. White belongs the credit for the many trees along the streets of Hoopeston for his example was followed in other parts of the town.

As a result of the different additions to the original plat, Hoopeston became a city of magnificent distances between improvements. Before long there were scattering cheap frame structures on Main street, used for business and residences, on Market street north from Davis street to the City Park were stores of general merchandise, hardware, drugs, etc. Over in Leeds a hotel, called the Hibbard House, stood on the southwest corner of Penn street and Second Avenue. Across the street was a large brick building, the double rooms of which were filled with general merchandise. Just across the street south, W. R. Clark had a large stock of hardware. Each division tried to permanently locate the business district within its borders, which ultimately found its way to the central portion of the town. Main street business lots sold for \$150 and the best residence lots in the town could be bought for \$125. The name of Hoopeston spread abroad and in 1874 the city had a population of 1,000.

Among the early pioneers who came to Hoopeston to build permanent homes and who gave character to the town were Alba Honeywell, J. S. McFerren, William Moore, Dale Wallace, A. H. Trego, R. M. Knox, Peter F. Levin, James A. Cunningham, A. T. Catherwood and W. R. Clark. There were others, but it is generally conceded that these named in a special manner exerted a progressive influence which impressed itself on the future destiny of Hoopeston.

The first newspaper was established in Hoopeston by Dale Wallace with the assistance of Gideon W. Seavey. The first number was issued on the 11th of January, 1872, and was called "The North Vermilion Chronicle." The first number gave a faithful account of the early days of Hoopeston. The paper continued to be published under that name for a year and a half, and then the name was changed to the "Hoopeston Chronicle" and was continued for many years under that name by Mr. Wallace.

Hoopeston was incorporated as a village in 1874. The first civil organization took place in January of that year. During the three years previous, the county and township government had proved sufficient for the new town, but its rapid growth soon necessitated organization. The village organization of Hoopeston continued for three years and three months until April 1877. T. J. Corr was president of the First Board of Village Trustees, which was composed of J. Bedell, W. R. Clark, S. P. Thompson, I. N. Danner and L. R. North. J. M. R. Spinning was the clerk of this first board and Jacob S. McFerren its treasurer. This first village board served only three months and one-half—from the middle of January, 1874, until April, 1874. An election was then

held to fill the offices for the next year, April, 1874, to April, 1875.

No sooner had the village organization become a fact with a live board of directors until the public spirit of the people demanded a better development in the matter of schools. A board of directors was elected—G. C. Davis, A. L. Armstrong and William Moore. The first need was a suitable school house. Whether a large, roomy centrally located building should be built at a good sized cost or whether numerous cheaper scattered buildings should be built, became an issue. William Moore was one of the most earnest advocates of the first named—a big central building—and this plan was adopted and resulted in the erection of the Honeywell School building, the first in Hoopeston.

The second village administration was headed by N. L. Thompson, president of the Board of Trustees; T. Watkins, L. Armstrong, W. A. Brillhart, S. P. Thompson and W. R. Clark forming the board for this year. W. R. Clark did not complete his term of office, however, resigning and his position being filled by William McFerren. J. S. McFerren had been re-elected to the office of treasurer of the board.

The third village administration—1875 to 1876—was headed by S. P. Thompson, as president; Joseph Green, Thomas Watkins, W. S. Leach, William Glaze and T. E. Mullin forming the board. L. Armstrong was the clerk and J. S. McFerren was named to serve his third consecutive term as treasurer of the village.

The last village administration—1876 and 1877—was headed by Samuel Noggle as president, the board being composed of the following: Thomas Woolverton, C. Webb, J. Bedell, Joseph Crouch and E. D. Frayne. John W. Hughes served as clerk of this board and W. R. Clark was its treasurer.

In April 1877, the City of Hoopeston was incorporated. The establishment of a saloon in the outskirts of the village some months before had aroused resentment on the part of many citizens of the thriving little city and the first election issue was, "No license for saloons." To settle this matter once and for all, a number of the leading citizens gathered, just before the election of city officers, in a little room on Main street, about where the Dyer-Knox building now stands to decide the future policy of the city regarding the liquor traffic. At this meeting it was determined that a city could be built, with sidewalks, streets and schools without the aid of revenue from saloons and from this little gathering the edict went forth to the world that Hoopeston was pre-eminently and distinctively a temperance town, and that saloons would not be tolerated. The next step was the finding of a mayor and a city council who could—and would—conduct the affairs of the young city on this basis. Jacob S. McFerren, known at that time as "The Boy Banker," was asked if he would accept the mayoralty under those conditions. He agreed to do

so and said to the committee: "If you will find me a council who will serve me, I will serve without salary, so that the money ordinarily paid out for that purpose may in part make up for the loss in license revenue."

Such a council was found and elected as follows: Aldermen: First Ward, Thomas Williams, N. Towell, Johnathan Bedell; Aldermen, Second Ward, A. M. Fleming, John N. Miller and Joseph Crouch. W. M. Young was elected as city clerk; A. Randles as city treasurer; A. E. McDonald was city attorney. A. H. Young, police magistrate; D. P. Haas, marshal and Superintendent of Streets, J. Diehl.

It was soon found that the unpaid services of the council and officers was illegal and that their acts were void. In order to obviate this it was voted to pay the mayor a salary of \$1 per year and the aldermen each 50 cents.

Under the able direction of the first city officials the new municipality prospered and grew fast. At the close of the administration it was estimated that the population of the city was around 2,000 persons. Gaps in the business district were being filled up with the coming of new merchandising enterprises. The most significant fact that was proved by the first administration, however, was that the city could be maintained without revenue from saloon licensing, the condition of the city's finances at the end of the first two years of municipal government leaving no doubts in the minds of those who were its leaders. Establishment of the custom of a nominal salary for the mayor and board of aldermen, a custom that is observed at the present day, by Mayor J. S. McFerren, is another outstanding event of this first administration.





## Chapter II—1878 to 1895

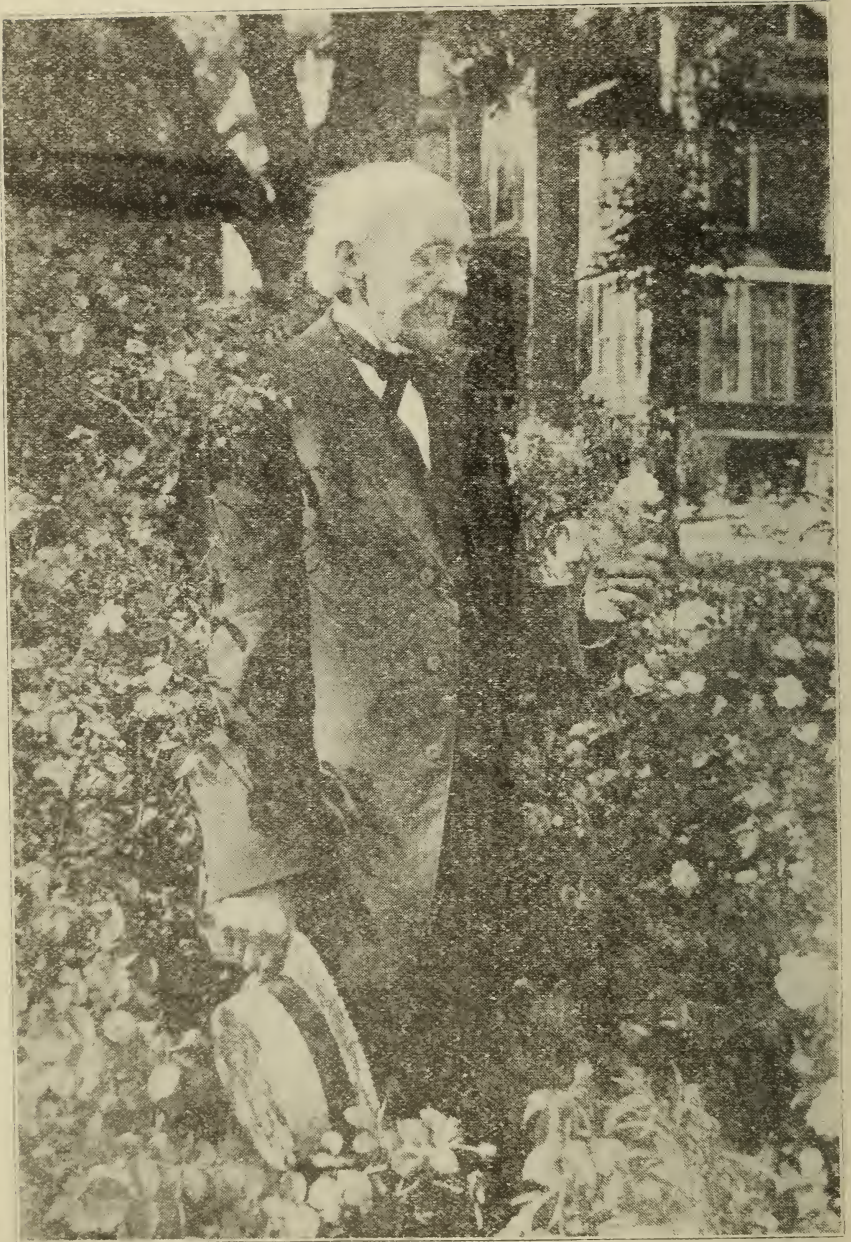
---

Second City Administration, 1878-1879—Third City Administration 1879-1880—Alba Honeywell Heads City Government—First Canning Factory is Established—1881-1882 City Government—Addition of Third Ward — City Growth—Development of Canning Industry—Hoopeston Canning Factory Established—1882-1883; 1883-1884; 1884-1885, 1885 to 1895.

---

So well did the city prosper and grow during the first city administration that its head, Mayor Jacob S. McFerren was re-elected without opposition in April, 1878. W. M. Young had been re-elected as city clerk and S. P. Thompson was named to serve his first term as city treasurer succeeding A. Randes. This was due to the passing of a law providing that no city treasurer could become a candidate to succeed himself, in force from the organization of Hoopeston to the present day. A. E. McDonald was re-elected to the office of city attorney and William Glaze became Police Magistrate. Aldermen in the first ward were: W. I. Hobert, W. R. Wilson and Samuel Noggle. Second ward aldermen were: A. M. Fleming, John N. Miller and Joseph Crouch. The second city administration was marked by continuing growth of the new city and establishing of the fact that this section was an ideal spot for the raising of sweet corn. Settlers were pouring in from the eastern states and land values rising. Many of these came to the new town to make their home while others located on the farms surrounding it. The town became the clearing center for the marketing of produce of these farms and it was not long until means of making this of greater value to the city was being discussed. No action industrially was taken until in 1880, however, although the first agitation in this line of endeavor properly belongs to the division of time 1878 to 1879.

In April, 1879, when the time rolled around for the next city election, efforts were made to have J. S. McFerren again make the race for mayor of this city, but this pioneer citizen refused the honor. Casting about for a suitable citizen to maintain the pro-



Alba Honeywell, Mayor 1879 and 1880



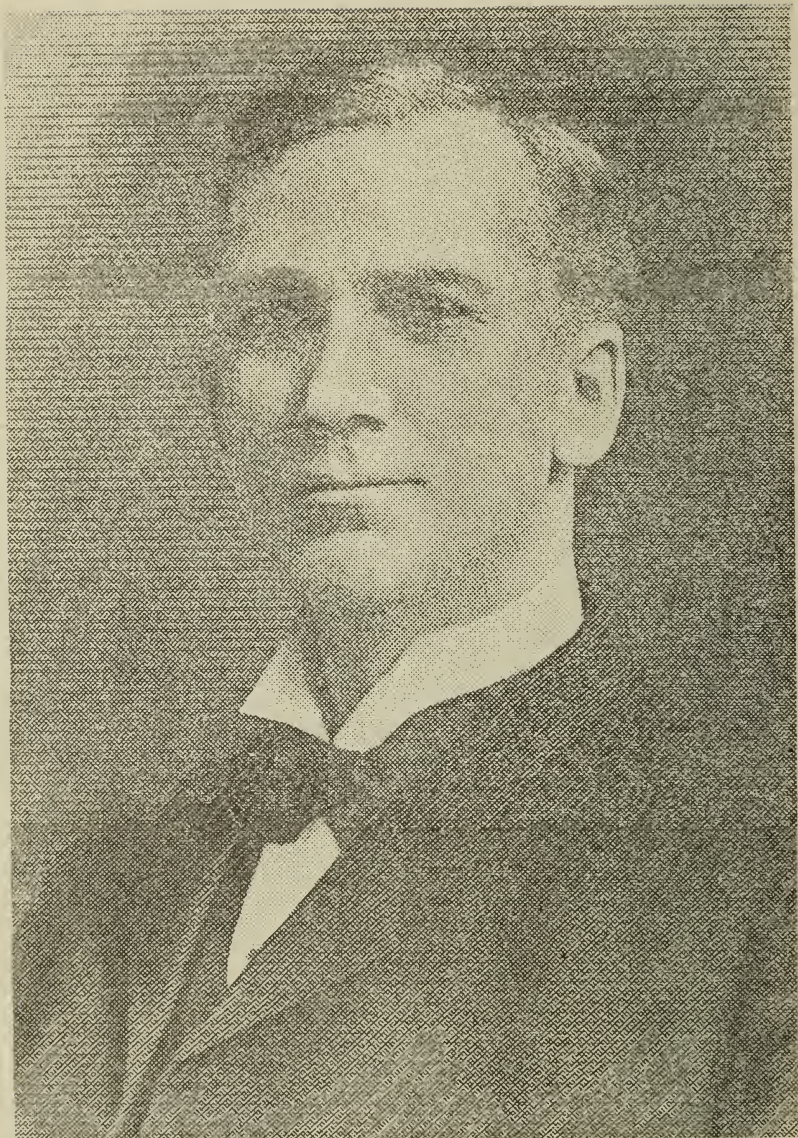
gressiveness of the city the name of Alba Honeywell was presented and he was chosen for the office. There was no change in the other offices of the city government with the exception of the election of J. H. Dyer as city attorney and the naming of T. B. Tennery as city marshal and superintendent of streets.

In the summer of 1880, Stephen S. McCall, an experienced canner from the State of New York, came west on a prospecting trip, trying to find a place where sweet corn would grow in sufficient quantities to warrant the establishment of a canning factory. He was attracted to Hoopeston and so impressed was he with its possibilities as a corn canning center that he established the first corn canning factory here. The old brick building which had served as headquarters for the Snell, Taylor & Mix Construction Company housed this first canning factory which was a financial success from the start, later to become known as the "Illinois Canning Company."

In 1881 the city had grown to such proportions that in order to equalize the burden of government and insure representation of all sections of the city a third ward was added to the political divisions of the town. At the same time another change was made which has survived to the present day, the number of aldermen from each of the now three wards of the city being placed at two, instead of three who had formerly served. In this period—1881-1882—occurred some of the greatest industrial development of the city. J. S. McFerren had again been called upon to head the city government in the capacity of mayor and William Moore and A. H. Trego were elected as aldermen from the second ward of the city. M. D. Calkins and C. W. Gay were the aldermen from the first ward while L. W. Anderson and James Hanna were the first aldermen to serve from the newly organized third ward of the city. Harlin M. Steely served as city attorney from 1881 to 1882. Addition of a new city official was also noted during his period, David M. Bingaman serving as superintendent of streets. Previous to this time the city marshal had also acted in this capacity but the town had grown to such an extent that it was no longer possible for the marshal to care for the duties of both offices.

Influenced by the success of the canning factory established by S. F. McCall, in the summer of 1882 J. S. McFerren, A. H. Trego and A. T. Catherwood incorporated the Hoopeston Canning Factory. This second industrial enterprise was a success from its inception in the minds of the three incorporators and soon became a fitting mate for the Illinois Canning Company.

Attracted by the great quantity of tin cans needed here by these two factories every year, the Union Can Manufacturing company was established, later to become a branch of the American Can Company, one of the greatest concerns of its nature in the world.



**CHARLES A. ALLEN**

**Member of Illinois Legislature 1884-1902.**

**City Attorney of Hoopston 1893-94-95.**

**Police Magistrate of Hoopston 1923-1925.**



Mayor Jacob S. McFerren served the city in the capacity of its chief executive for three consecutive terms from 1881 until 1884. In April 1884 he was re-elected despite his protest and on April 21 resigned to be succeeded by Samuel P. Thompson who served out his unexpired term. The name of James H. Dyer first appears in the history of Hoopeston in the 1882 administration, his first political office being that of alderman from the third ward.

The word had gone out to the world that Hoopeston was a mighty good place to live, the attitude toward the saloon question aiding in fostering this belief. The fact that city officials served the city without pay was another factor that had been broadcasted to the world at large by this time and the words of J. S. McFerren establishing this custom were known from coast to coast. This could have no other than a good effect on the thriving city and home seekers came in good numbers. The end of the year 1885 found the city grown marvellously in comparison to others of greater age.

The First National Bank was incorporated in 1882 by J. S. McFerren, being the outgrowth of the bank established by that pioneer when he had come to Hoopeston as a settler. It was the city's first financial institution.

Industries established up to the end of this year—1885—had all prospered and grown to many times the size of their initial start. So great had been the almost miraculous growth of the new town that it was referred to as “the metropolis of the prairie.”

The period from 1885 until the year 1895—ten years—saw this growth continued and steady under the administrations of the following mayors: 1885-88, H. L. Bushnell; 1888-89, A. H. Trego; 1889-90, W. P. Pierce; 1890-91, W. P. Pierce; 1891-1893, W. R. Wilson; 1893-95, James H. Dyer.



## Chapter III—1895-1919

---

Administration of James H. Dyer—Street Improvements—Fourth Ward is Added to City—J. S. McFerren Heads City Again in 1901 — Whitman Granted Franchise for Establishment of Telephone Exchange in 1902—Gas Franchise is Granted to Wakeman in 1905—Crary and Finley Administrations—Merritt and Moore Administrations.

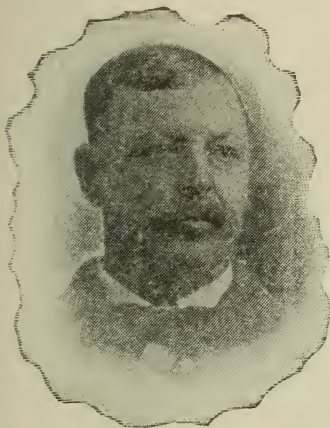
---

In 1895—under the administration of James H. Dyer the first street improvement in the form of paved streets had been done. In that year Main street was paved from Second Avenue, to Fourth street; Market street from Penn street to the L. E. & W. railroad; Bank street from Penn street to Main street; Penn street from eighth street west to the city limits; Third street from Main street to Penn street and Second Avenue from Penn street to the L. E. & W. railroad. The paving program put through in that one year was the greatest in the history of the city up to the present date. In 1897-98-99 this was continued with the paving of Market street from McCracken Avenue to the L. E. & W. railroad; Honeywell Avenue from Market street to Seventh street; Main street from Third Avenue to Second Avenue; Fourth street from Honeywell Avenue to Lincoln street; Second Avenue from Penn street south to the city limits; Main street from Fourth to Eighth street and Third street from Penn street to Lincoln street.

John L. Hamilton was at the head of the city government as mayor in the year 1900, when a census of the city revealed the necessity of the addition of another ward to the three already in existence in order to furnish proper representation to all people residing in the city. This fourth ward was accordingly organized, J. Carson and Otto Johnson being elected as the first aldermen to serve in the city council. William Moore and M. H. Lewis were



alderman in the second ward; the first was represented by John Bock and A. L. Shriver, while D. M. Shankland and L. J. Cox served from the third ward. C. E. Smith was city clerk and A. L. Knox, treasurer. William York was the marshal and George Webster, street commissioner.



**D. M. Shankland**

The year 1900 was devoid of street improvement and it was not until 1901, when J. S. McFerren was called upon once more to head the city government that this line of improvement was resumed. Mayor McFerren served until April, 1903, and at the end of the latter year the following streets had been paved: First Avenue from the L. E. & W. railroad south to Washington street; Washington street from First Avenue to Second Avenue; Market street from Penn to Orange street; Market street

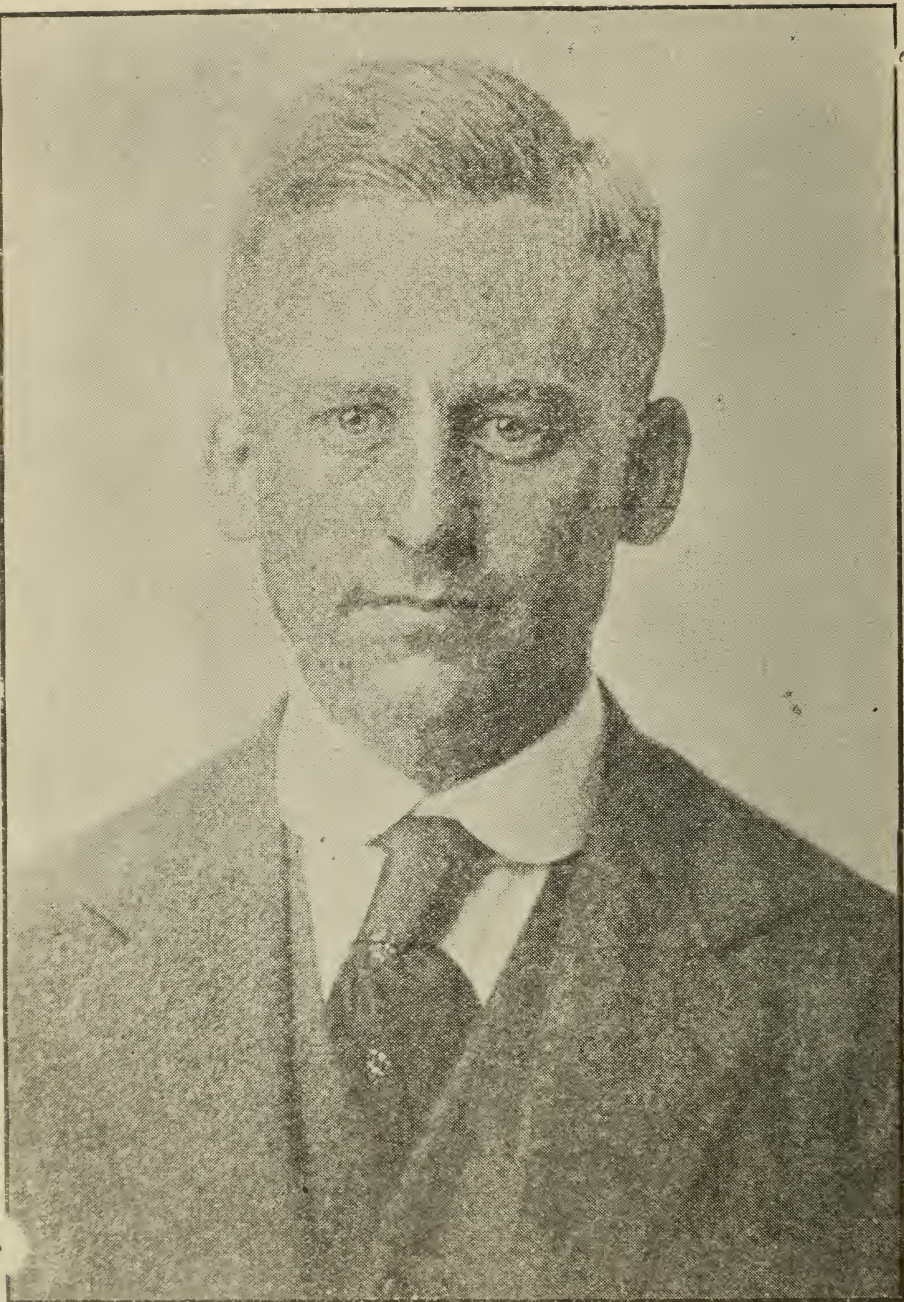
from McCracken Avenue to the city limits; Seminary Avenue from Market street to the east line of Wallace & Catherwood's addition; Washington street from the C. & E. I. railroad to First Avenue.

In the year 1902, J. E. Whitman was granted a franchise by the city council for the establishment of a telephone exchange in the city limits and before the end of the year a new industry that has had much to do with subsequent development of the city was in flourishing condition.

James A. Cunningham took over the reigns of the city government in April, 1903, and remained the city's chief executive until the year 1905, when he was succeeded by Fred Ayers, who served until 1907. During that period and up until the end of 1907, the following streets were paved; Washington street from the C. & E. I. railroad tracks to Euclid Avenue; Washington street from Second Avenue to McFerren Park; Lincoln street from Fourth street to Euclid Avenue; Fourth street from Lincoln street to Orange street; Seventh street from Penn street to Washington street; Young Avenue from Market street to Eighth street; Lincoln street from Fourth street to the C. & E. I. Railroad.

In November, 1905, the granting of a franchise to C. J. Wake-man to manufacture and furnish the city with illuminating gas took place, another industrial addition which was to mean much to the city's development.

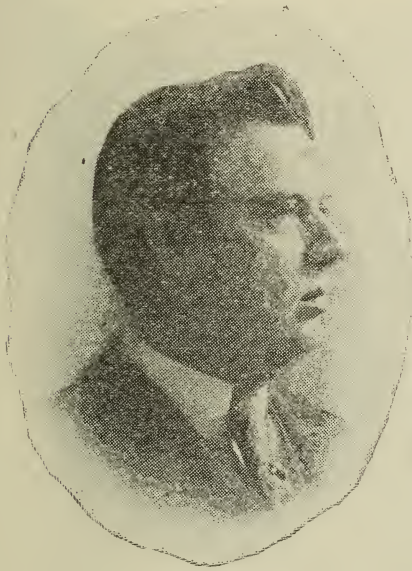
C. S. Crary became mayor in April, 1907, serving until April 1909, when H. C. Finley replaced him to serve until April, 1913. No street improvement was done during that six-year period up until the time that I. E. Merritt became mayor in April, 1913. In that year Main street was paved from Third to Sixth Avenue and



**CHARLES FURNESS DYER**  
City Attorney, Heepster, Illinois, 1913-1925



the first alley south of Main street from Bank street east to Market street. In 1914 Penn street was paved from a point 100 feet east of Sixth Avenue to the city limits.



C. S. Crary

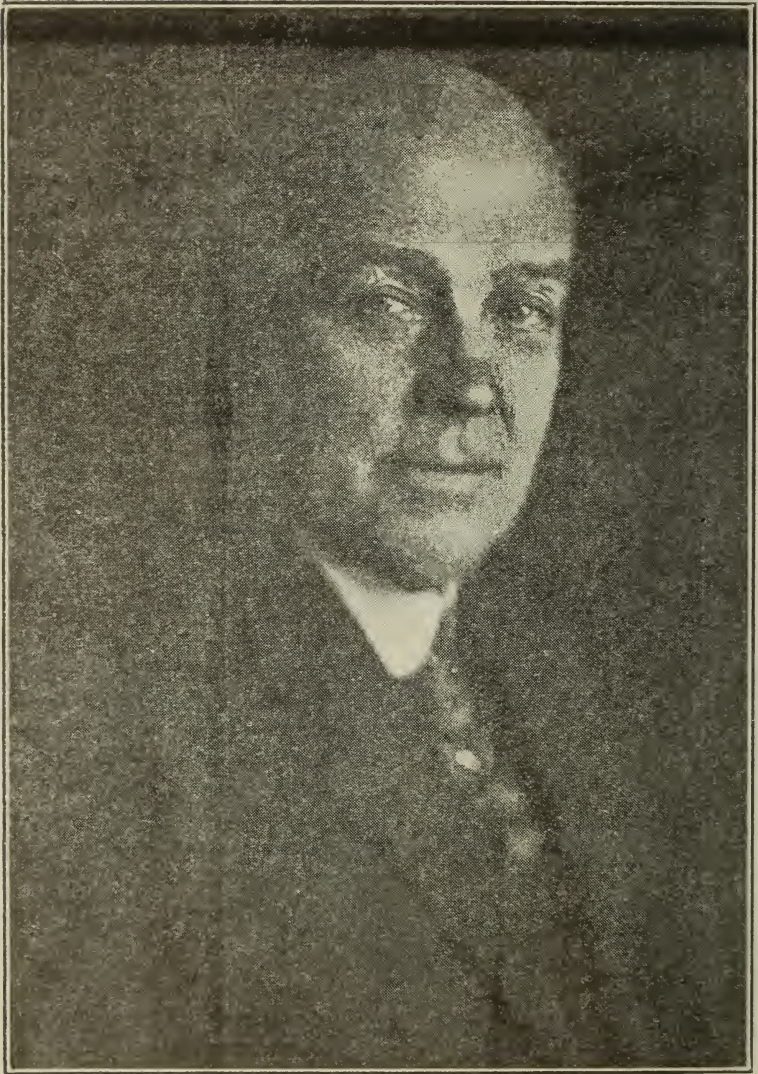


H. C. Finley

The ascension of I. E. Merritt to the post of Mayor of Hoop-eston was marked by many interesting facts, the period between 1913 and 1918 being remembered as productive of many civic benefits that have had a lasting good effect upon the city. Mayor Merritt was fortunate in his board of aldermen, the men given him by the people of Hoop-eston in his two terms being of a calibre that made it possible for the doing of many things for the advancement of the city. The board of aldermen was as follows:

First ward: Walter C. Holmes and John Rubrake, succeeded by Dow Woods; Second ward: Arthur W. Murray and Arthur H. Campbell, succeeded by Charles W. Warner; Third ward: A. M. Earel and D. M. Shankland; Fourth Ward: H. A. Vines and W. N. Ferguson, succeeded by B. R. Burton. C. E. Mitchell was the city clerk; John O. Klein, treasurer; W. K. Dixon, city marshal and John Cullison, street commissioner. Charles F. Dyer, junior member of the law firm of Dyer & Dyer, had been chosen city attorney, a position he was to hold successively from then to the year 1925.

Included among the achievements of Mayor I. E. Merritt's administration was the paving of West Main street; Sixth avenue; Orange street, West Penn street, Maple street and of the alley between Main and Penn streets, from Market to Bank street.



WILLIAM MOORE  
Mayor of Hoppeston 1917-19



The rest room at McFerren park, which had been given to the city by J. S. McFerren, was built and the balance paid on the cost of construction of the pavilion at the park. The lagoon at McFerren park, one of the beauty spots of the pleasure grounds can also be credited to Mayor Merritt and his co-workers, as well as the beautifying of the grounds by the setting out of many trees and shrubs, which people of Hoopeston are today enjoying.

Municipal improvements included the sinking of two wells at the city pumping station improving and increasing the city's water supply for both domestic and fire protection use. This had been one matter in which the city had been backward up to that time and the two new wells served for many years, before additional improvements were necessary to keep pace with the fast growing city.

Construction of a city septic disposal plant is another achievement of the Merritt administrations, deserving of comment, as is the fact that the vault was placed in the city building and later improved. This vault holds the records of Hoopeston since its organization, the minutes of each council since the first, presided over by J. S. McFerren, and other valuable data such as election records, etc., which each year become more valuable. Their protection from fire and other possible loss was the main incentive for the construction of the vault at the city building, advocated by Mayor Merritt and strongly supported by his co-workers.

Another city improvement that was to mark the growth of the city from a "country trading center" into the class of a modern city, was the installation of a lighting system on Main street, giving Hoopeston the start of a white way. Cluster type lights were installed throughout the business section of the city, which were to remain in use until 1925.

A new city official, made necessary by conditions that were the result of the growth of the city was authorized during Mayor Merritt's administration, when women of Hoopeston, following a mass meeting, visited the council chamber and asked for the appointment of a Police Matron to look after the welfare of girls of the city and such other matters as could be completely left in the charge of such an official. The request was granted and a police matron named, which custom has been followed by each succeeding administration to the present day.

The next mayor of Hoopeston, 1917 to 1919, was one of the old pioneers, one of the men to whom Hoopeston in truth owed its existence and who despite this fact had never been called upon to serve in the position of chief executive, although he had, while a member of the council in 1881, displayed qualities of leadership that made him almost an ideal man for the job. William Moore, one of the citizens of Hoopeston who is never forgotten when the men who have done the most for the city are named over, was

chosen as the chief executive and became Hoopeston's "war mayor," serving during the troubled times of 1917 to 1919, entirely through the world conflict.

Just a few days before he was inaugurated, the world was startled with the declaration of war voted by the United States congress and it was his duty to guide Hoopeston through the troubled days of mobilization, when executive tasks were almost doubled due to the demands of the military.

How Hoopeston responded to the call for service issued by the President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, is better told in another section of this book, (Hoopeston in the World War), and it is sufficient to say here, that under the able guidance of Mayor William Moore and his council, aided by the patriotic citizens of this section, Hoopeston came through the period of stress with flying colors, making a record that has been equalled by few cities of the same size in the state and that has been excelled by none in the nation.

World affairs and the drain on the nation's resources brought about by the world war made a policy of rigid economy necessary for the city during the period from 1917 to 1919 and it is perhaps because of this that few improvements of a noteworthy character were made in that time. Certain it is that in leaving the city at the end of 1919 in better financial shape than when he took office and maintaining the city at an "even keel" during the turbulent war days, Mayor Moore and his administration achieved a record that is worthy of comment.

One outstanding fact, representative of the spirit of Hoopeston in 1917-1919 is perhaps worthy of note here. When the World War broke out City Attorney Charles F. Dyer immediately placed himself at the disposal of his country's military forces, was commissioned and sent overseas. In 1919 with his company still in France, Captain Dyer was elected to the post of City Attorney without opposition, those who were at home feeling it an honor to so reward one of their "fighting sons."



## Chapter IV—1919-1925

John A. Heaton Takes Office for First Term—Fire Department is Motorized—Paving Improvements—Heaton Re-Elected in 1921 and 1923—The Waterworks Improvement—Gateway is Established for City on West Main Street—Industrial Progress is Noted—D. J. McFerren is Elected Mayor and Takes Office in April 1925.

The six year period from 1919 to 1925—the three administrations of Mayor John A. Heaton, are marked by many things wherein the city of Hoopeston was advanced. Mayor John A.



Ex-Mayor John A. Heaton

Heaton at the time of his retirement from office in April, 1925, had served for six consecutive years, three terms, he being the only mayor of Hoopeston to be accorded that distinction in the over a half-century since the founding of the city. Only one other man, Mayor J. S. McFerren, was accorded the honor of being elected to the office of chief executive of Hoopeston for more than two terms, and at no time in the many years that he served the city, did Mayor McFerren serve for more than four years consecutively.

Mayor Heaton took office in April, 1919, with the following aldermen— First ward: J. W. Cox and Walter Holmes; Second Ward: G. C. Trego and Charles W. Warner; Third Ward: Fred Parks and E. J. Keister; Fourth Ward: C. E. Musson and A. M. Kellar.

The first improvement of a civic nature undertaken by the Heaton administration during the first term of office in 1920 came when it was decided to gravel



or cinder all streets in the city that were not paved. This was carried through successfully.

In 1920 also came a step forward in the matter of fire protection better than any that had ever been taken previously in the city. After much discussion and the promise of co-operation and support from the city's volunteer fire company it was determined to purchase a fire truck for the city and at least partially motorize the fire department. The truck was purchased and is still in use, having proved its value at many times in the past five years by the amount of possible loss from fires it has prevented. Advocated for many months by Chester A. Aldrich, editor of The Chronicle-Herald, as well as by all citizens of the city who had made the matter of fire protection a subject for study, the decision to purchase the truck was hailed as a great step forward by the majority of residents.

The paving of Fifth street and Seventh street were also undertaken in the year 1920 and carried to a successful conclusion by the Heaton administration and this was followed in 1921 by the resurfacing of Honeywell Avenue and Washington street.

The city's revenue for the purpose of maintenance of streets and repairing paved streets within the city was greatly increased during the year 1921, when advocated by Mayor Heaton and a majority of the council, the wheel tax ordinance was passed. This wheel tax ordinance places a small tax on vehicles of every description that use the city streets and from the first year that it was placed in effect proved its usefulness to the city in making it possible to repair and maintain streets.

In 1922 the paving of West Main street was completed by the Heaton administration and it was during this year that an improvement was first proposed that was later to be consummated by Mayor Heaton and his co-workers and that perhaps will stand for many years as the most outstanding improvement of the entire six years. This was the providing of a more adequate water supply for domestic use and for fire protection to the city. When the matter was first brought before the council a committee was appointed and it was determined that engineers would be employed to investigate the entire problem in Hoopeston and work out a plan whereby the matter could be most efficiently and economically solved. The firm of Parse, Greeley & Hanson, of Chicago, were employed to do this work and made an exhaustive investigation. Eight months of time were consumed before the report of the engineers was made to the council and they had been satisfied on all points after which it was decided to go ahead with the improvement. C. E. Musson, alderman from the fourth ward, chairman of the fire and water committee of the council is another who is deserving of much of the credit for this improvement. Alderman Musson was tireless in his efforts to bring about a

desire for the improvement and later to work out adequate and complete plans for it.

It was not until 1923 that actual work was started at the waterworks resulting in the sinking of an extra well, erection of a new reservoir and the maintaining of both pressure pumps at the institution in such condition that either can be used at any time to carry the load of ordinary usage while the other is free to supply water for an emergency such as a big fire.

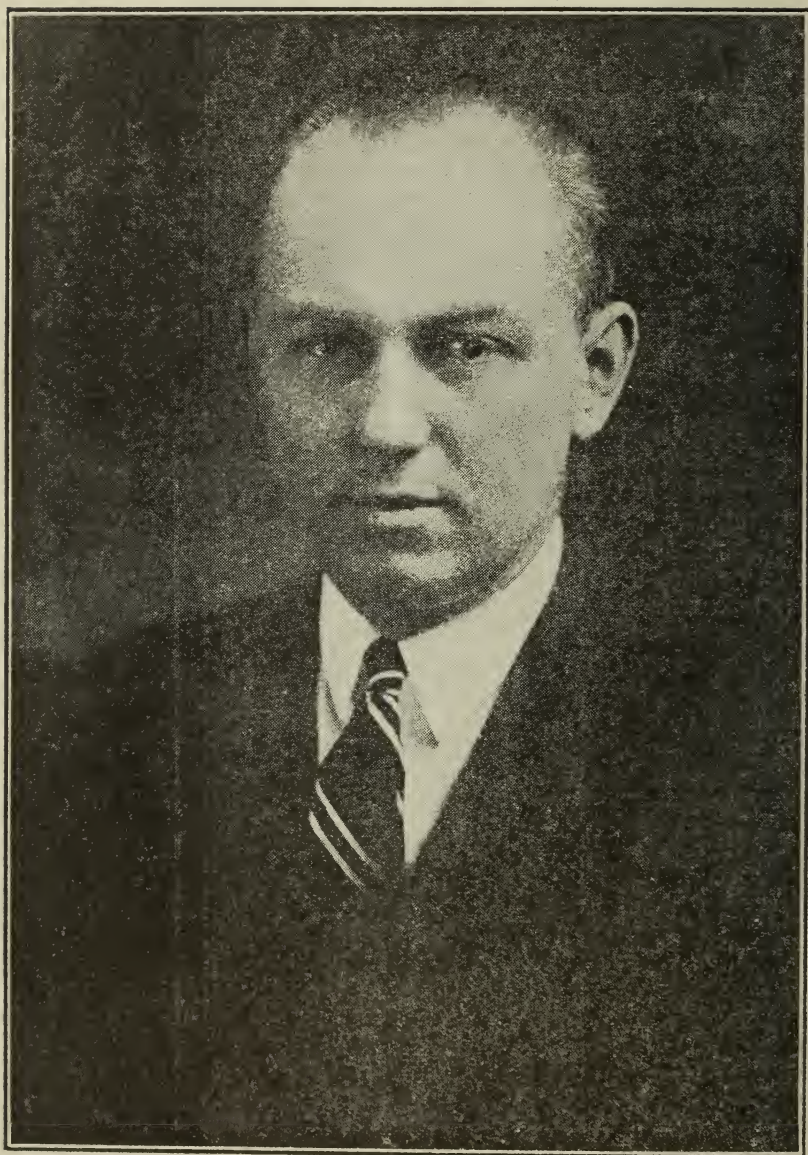
One other improvement came in the year 1923 that can be placed partly to the credit of the city administration although the major portion of the credit perhaps belongs to the Chamber of Commerce, which sponsored and actually carried through the work. This was the placing of ornamental gates at the junction of the Dixie Highway and West Main street, that tell travelers-by, on the great main artery of travel, that just beyond lies Hoopeston, "the best 6,000 city in Illinois." The gateway does not bear those words, but there are few places in the land where the little Illinois city is not known today, and wherever it is known, that fact has been woven into the legend of its existence in the mind of the stranger.

Hoopeston during the six years of the Heaton administration experienced one of the greatest industrial booms of its entire fifty year existence. Not in the matter of new enterprises establishing themselves here, but in solid and substantial growth of those already here. The taking over of the Sprague Canning Machinery Company, by the Sprague-Sells Corporation was perhaps the start of this growth or at least its greatest contributing factor. Immense additions to the factory of The American Can Company on West Main street, completed in 1925, make this plant of the great corporation the largest in the point of floor space, in the United States.

The Illinois Canning Company, with the building of new barns in 1925, and the making of many other extensive improvements to their buildings increasing their floor space and general capacity is another improvement worthy of note at this time. It has been computed that the industrial wealth and capacity of the city almost doubled in the six years from 1919 to 1925, a fact that not only is worthy of recording for the past, but that augurs a bright prospect for the future.

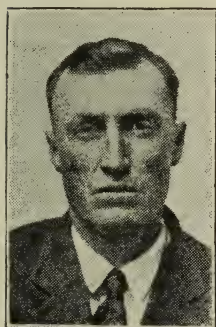
Such was the condition of the city in 1925, when the first cycle in the history of Hoopeston was completed by the ascension of the second generation to posts of power and responsibility. In 1922 had occurred the death of J. S. McFerren, guardian angel of Hoopeston. His sons, William McFerren and Donald J. McFerren took up the work of building for Hoopeston where he had left off. William McFerren was named the president of the First National Bank, following in the footsteps of his father in the banking business.





D. J. McFerren, Mayor of Hoopeston

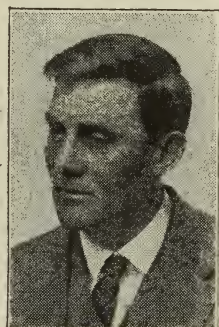
In 1925, Donald J. McFerren fulfilled the hopes of those who had ever been the friends and followers of his father, when he became a candidate for mayor and was elected without opposition to the office so many times filled efficiently and wisely by his father. This completed the cycle from generation to generation in Hoopeston and marks a fitting place for the chronicling of the events of the city that in a little over fifty years has grown from the open spaces of the prairie to a thriving beehive of industry.



**Walter Holmes**

Members of the present city council are: first ward, Walter Holmes and L. D. Woods; second ward, Chas. Hughes and J. A. Harlan; third ward, Fred Parks and Fred Swisher; fourth ward, Frank Gardner and C. M. Ray.

City officers for 1925-26 are: Chief of Police C. O. Musson; Night Policemen, Arthur J. Nichols and Mont Pickrell. City Attorney, G. H. Couchman; City Matron,



**L. D. Wood**

Mrs. Eliza Mann; Cemetery Superintendent, Roy Smith; Water Collector, William Sharon; Health Officer, Dr. A. J. Clay.

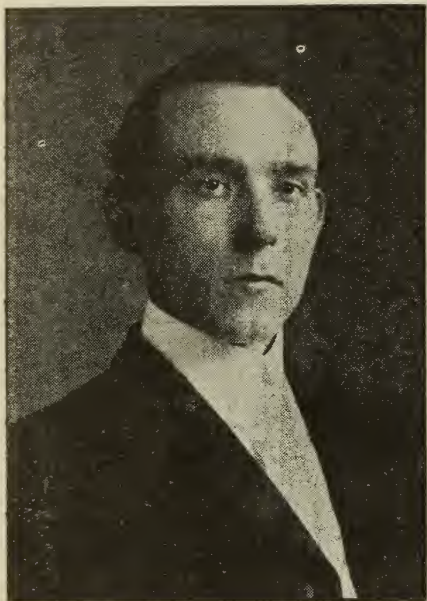
Mayor Donald J. McFerren took the oath of office as Mayor of Hoopeston on May 4, 1925. As Mayor John A. Heaton turned over the duties of his office to the new mayor, Donald J. McFerren, Alderman J. A. Harlan, on behalf of the old council, many of whom had served the entire six years with Mayor Heaton, presented him with a beautiful token in the shape of a fountain pen with the following words:

"You have been our Mayor for six long years. One other has served as long as you at various times in the past, but you have the distinction of being the only Mayor to serve us three consecutive times. You are about to lay down the gavel and to vacate the seat of Mayor. We are sorry to see you go for you have been a good Mayor. You have always had the interests of the city at heart. You have labored conscientiously and well, you have been prompt and always done what seemed best at the time. You have been careful in your appointments and always strived to have harmony among the council. Such efforts cannot help but bring good results. It will be useless for me to enumerate the accomplishments of your administration; we all know what they are. As I said before we are sorry to see you go but such is the order of things. On behalf of the old council I wish to present you with a small token. Do not prize it for its intrinsic value, for that



is like your salary, but cherish it and accept it in the spirit in which it is given and when the years roll by and our fair city has grown to be a metropolis, you can well and truthfully say, "I built better than I knew."

Presiding over the council for the first time in his capacity as mayor, D. J. McFerren made the following talk,



**Dr. A. J. Clay**  
**City Health Officer**

which is in this form preserved to the history of Hoopeston, as was that other of his father when he assumed office as the first mayor of Hoopeston:

Gentlemen of the Council:

Realizing the honor bestowed upon me by the people of Hoopeston I consider this to be the most opportune moment to express my appreciation and to assure you how deeply I feel the responsibilities of my appointment.

My father, as you all know, was many times Mayor and knowing how loyal and sincere was his interest in the welfare and development of the city I shall strive to do all in my power, to continue

with the improvements and good management which were started by him and have been so successfully carried on by his successors. I take up the duties of this office free from all alliances and without any promises made before my election.

Having always lived in Hoopeston I think that I am quite familiar with the conditions and requirements in the administration of our city's affairs. By this I do not mean that at the present moment I already know all the questions which will arise during my term in office nor do I know how they are to be solved, but I feel confident that with the co-operation and assistance of the council I shall be able to deal with and decide these matters to the satisfaction and benefit of the city.

I have no set plan of work or any one thing in mind to present to you as I feel that the needs of the city and the policy of any action should be considered and planned with the council which represents the popular sentiments and feelings of all the citizens of Hoopeston. I might, however, in this connection recommend the following:



**G. H. COUCHMAN**

City Attorney of Hoopston, 1925. Graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University with degree of LL.B., Five Years Secretary to Justice William M. Farmer, of the Illinois Supreme Court, 1913 to 1918. Senior member of the law firm of Couchman & Couchman, Fifth Floor, Willdon Building, Hoopston, Illinois.



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

First: That all property owners, whether residential or business, be given adequate fire protection.

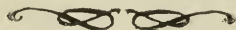
Second: That all parts of our city be furnished or provided with proper drainage.

Third: That our many miles of paved streets be maintained in good condition.

Fourth: That the city ordinances be strictly enforced.

Fifth: That the duties of the appointees be performed faithfully and efficiently.

No city can stand still, it must either move forward or backward. For the next two years the course of the city is largely in the hands of our council. Let us hope that by friendly co-operation, good administration and reasonable taxation that course will be unanimously proclaimed as a step onward towards a still more prosperous and flourishing city.



## Political Subdivisions

The city of Hoopeston is divided into four wards as follows:

**FIRST WARD**—All that part of territory of said city lying south of the center line of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad and west of the center line of the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad and is the same hereby declared to be the first ward.

**SECOND WARD**—All that part of territory of said city lying south of the center line of the Lake Erie and Western railroad and the center line of Fifth street is the Second Ward.

**THIRD WARD**—All that part of territory of said city lying north of the center line of the Lake Erie and Western Railroad and west of the center line of Fifth street is declared to be the third ward.

**FOURTH WARD**—All that part or territory of said city lying east of the center line of Fifth street is declared to be the Fourth Ward.



# Hoopeston in the World War

---

General Review—Organization of Company B, 129th Infantry as Unit of Illinois National Guard—Changes in Officers—Service on the Mexican Border—Start of World War—Sent Overseas to France—French Battlefields—The Honor Roll—Home Activities—The Community War Chest—The Red Cross—The Draft Board.

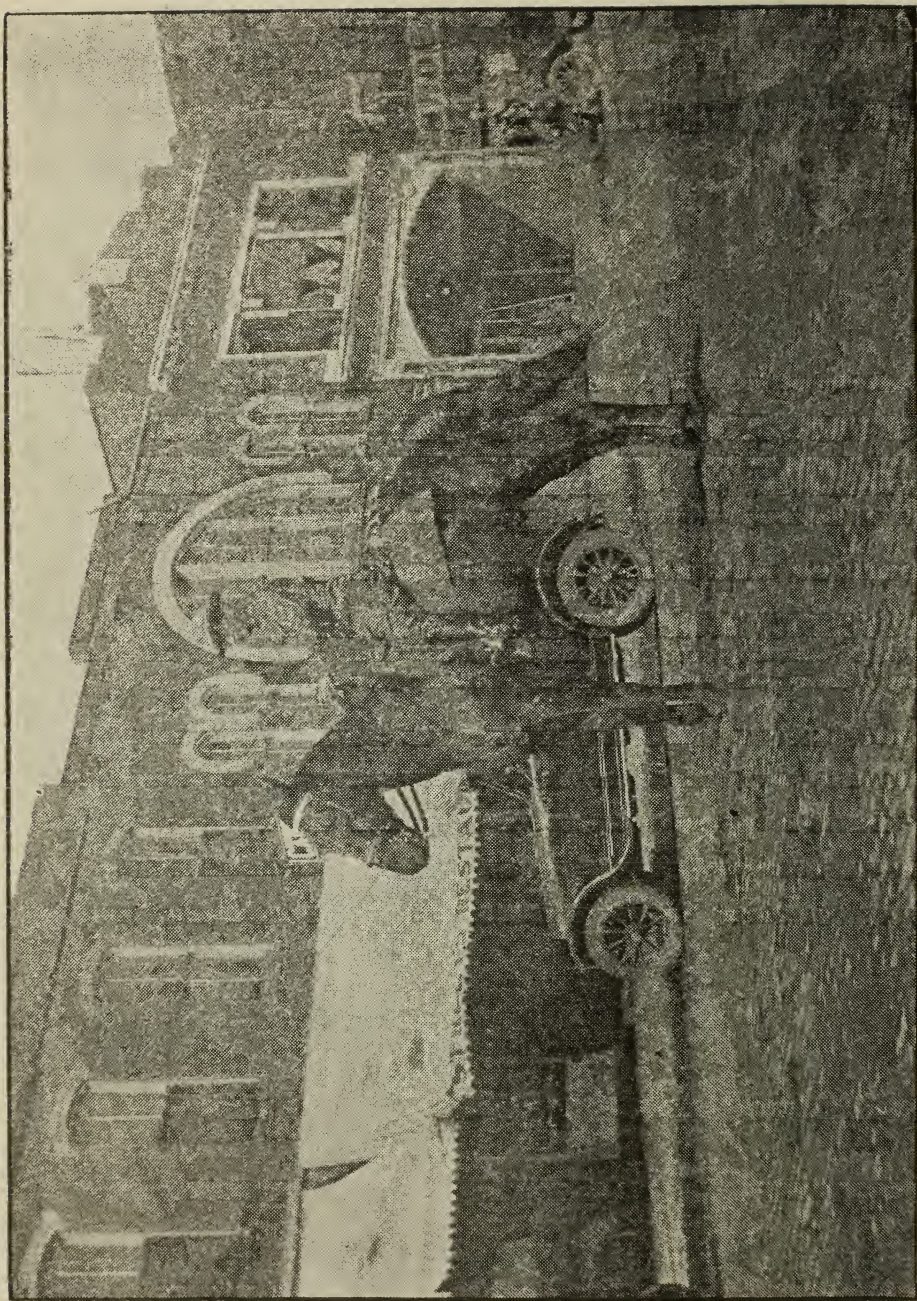
---

Few citizens of Hoopeston can look back upon the period from April, 1917, to November 11, 1918, without a thrill of pride, a tightening of the heart at the memory of anxious days, when each night the casualty list was scanned, when each day brought its fresh horror in the names of those listed as "dead," "seriously wounded," "missing," etc. Hoopeston's part in the world war was played with no less patriotism and devotion than that accorded by any other city in the nation of its size. Hoopeston gave freely of her sons for military service and those who were forced to stay at home for many and varied causes, did their "bit" by throwing themselves heart and soul into the vast tasks that were demanded of them, that the army at the front might live and remain in condition for their difficult task.

The first phase of Hoopeston in the world war rightly belongs to the military angle. To the men who gave up their homes and everything they held dear to travel thousands of miles across seas to fight a treacherous foe on a foreign soil. And the history of military operations, insofar as Hoopeston is concerned, starts properly with the chronicling of events in the organization known as Company B, 129th Infantry, the national guard unit, which was composed largely of Hoopeston boys and which was ordered into service from this city.

Twelve years ago in June, 1919, Company B, Hoopeston's crack military organization, came into existence. Its formation was due to the efforts of Earl C. Thornton, now Major E. C. Thornton, who was elevated to the command of the third battalion, 129th Infantry, and a number of other patriotic young men of







Hoopeston, who conceived the idea of organizing a unit of the Illinois' National guard in this city.

Major Thornton's previous military experience naturally made him a leader in the movement to organize a branch of the state militia in Hoopeston, he being at that time, the year 1907, a top sergeant in Battery A., of Danville, Major Thornton had been identified with Battery A., almost from the date of its organization and served with the Danville battery in the Spanish American war, participating in the Porto Rican campaign.

No great difficulty was experienced in interesting a large number of Hoopeston young men in the embryo company, and with the assistance of John N. Allen and Walter Trego, within a very short time sixty-five members had been secured, and in due time the company was inducted into the Illinois National guard, becoming a unit of the Third Regiment. The first officers elected resulted in Major Thornton being chosen captain; John N. Allen, first lieutenant and Walter Trego, second lieutenant. Headquarters for the company were obtained, the entire second floor of what was then known as the Armory building on South Market Street, being utilized as quarters. Weekly drills were held. Under the instruction of Captain Thornton, the company was quickly rounded into a first-class military organization passing inspection with flying colors.

Two years following its organization Company B was called upon to perform actual military duty. In August, 1909, Springfield, the state capital, became the scene of one of the most serious race riots in the history of Illinois. A murder committed by a negro was followed by an outbreak of rioting, which resulted in a great portion of the negro residential section of the capital city being destroyed by fires. Mob rule prevailed and it became necessary for Governor Charles S. Deneen to call upon the national guard to restore order. Hoopeston's company was among the national guard units summoned and the local boys promptly responded. The company spent one week in the state capital, doing patrol duty, at the end of which time mob violence having been quelled and order restored, the Hoopeston boys returned home, having acquitted themselves creditably in their first active duty.

Shortly after the organization of the company, the boys had their first experience in a state camp, going to Camp Lincoln, Springfield, where they remained one week. In the succeeding years, these yearly encampments were eagerly looked forward to, as a desirable outing and their visit to similar events at Dixon, Elgin, and elsewhere, resulted in putting finishing touches to their military training.

Very few changes were made in the roster of officers of the company, throughout its more than twelve years of existence. Major Thornton, the first captain, passed the necessary examina-

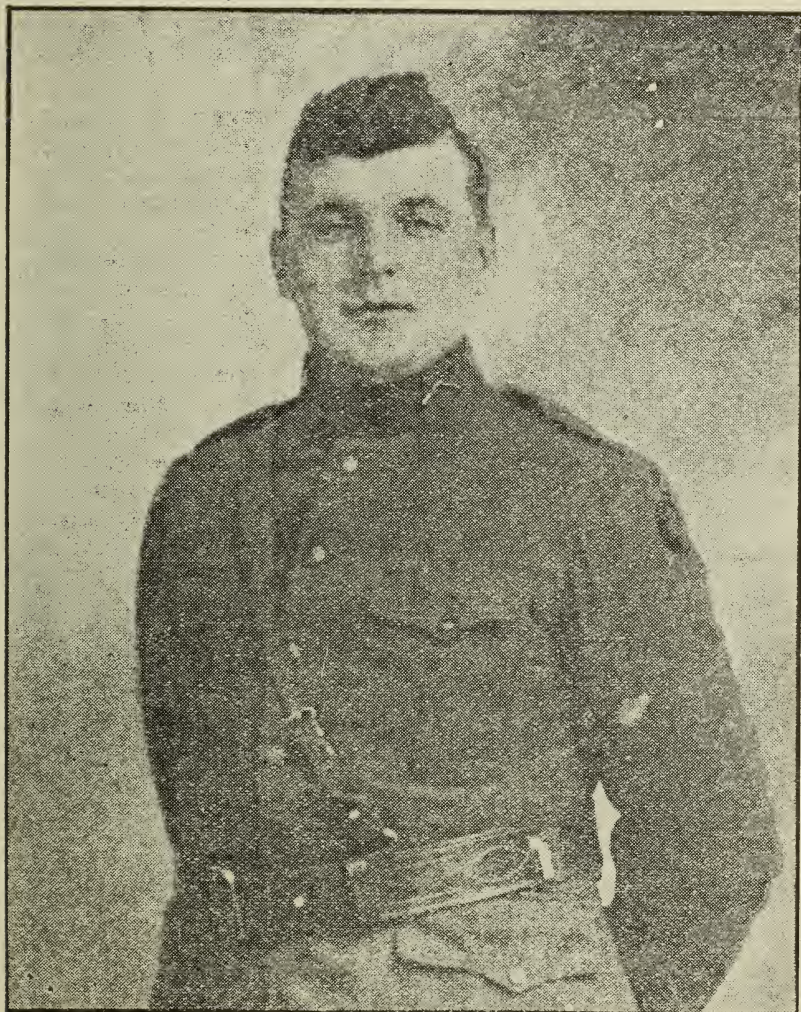


tion and received his commission, remaining in command of Company B until shortly after its return from the Mexican border, on February 21, 1921. While at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, awaiting the mustering of the company out of the United States service, he was promoted to major of the Third Battalion of the Third Regiment, upon the resignation of Major E. E. Leonard, of Rockford.

First Lieutenant John N. Allen and Second Lieutenant Walter Trego, who were elected for the first three years of the existence of Company B resigned at the end of this period of service and they were succeeded by C. E. Wellman, First Lieutenant, and John H. Steward, second lieutenant. Both passed examinations satisfactorily and received their commissions but Lieut. Wellman resigned in 1911 and went to Danville, being succeeded as first lieutenant by John H. Steward, while Leroy Songer was elected second lieutenant. Both of these officers retained their positions until after the return of Company B from the Mexican border, when by reason of the promotion of Lieut. Steward to become captain, succeeding Captain Thornton, who as previously mentioned had gone up to the rank of major, and the resignation of Second Lieutenant Roy Songer, Mitchell S. Cash was elected first lieutenant and Lloyd P. Petry was chosen second lieutenant.

During the most of the period of its existence, Company B had an up and down career and there were times when lack of interest in the organization almost resulted in its disbandment. Only the enthusiasm of Captain Thornton and Messrs. Steward, Songer and others, in whose veins flowed the red blood of patriotism, kept the organization intact. These men never waned in their enthusiasm and when enlistments expired the company rolls dropped as low at times to only number 40 or more odd men, they retained their courage and put forth even greater efforts to arouse interest in the part of young men and induced them to enlist. It was a tough task, owing to the disinclination of the youth of Hoopeston to indulge in the dull routine of weekly drills and dry military procedure.

Early in the year 1916, however, when the situation on the Mexican border assumed a serious aspect and rumors of impending hostilities spread throughout the land, increased interest was manifested in the ranks of Hoopeston young men. Patriotism became rampant on June 19, 1916, when President Woodrow Wilson issued his famous call, summoning the entire national guard into the military service for duty on the Mexican border, orders coming the following morning to mobilize Company B and hold the members in service to proceed momentarily to the mobilization camp. Five days later Company B entrained for Camp Dunne, Springfield, where other units of the Third Regiment had been mobilized. Prior to departure for the Mexican border, final medical inspection was given at Camp Dunn and to Company



CAPTAIN JOHN H. STEWARD



B went an honor unequalled by any other national guard company of Illinois—namely, not a single member was rejected on account of physical disability.

Eight months was spent by Company B, within less than 200 miles from the Mexican border, where under strict military regulation they were made fit for the rigors of a long campaign, but the desire of the men to tackle the Mexicans was never realized. The display of force on the part of Uncle Sam put a damper on the arrogance of the Carranza government and cooled their ardor to provoke the United States to war.

After matters had become quiet and all dangers of an armed clash had subsided, national guard troops were gradually withdrawn and on February 21, 1917, Company B was transferred to Fort Sheridan, Illinois, where it was formally mustered out of the service and arriving home shortly thereafter, was widely acclaimed by the people of Hoopeston, who had in the meantime become more appreciative of their military organization.

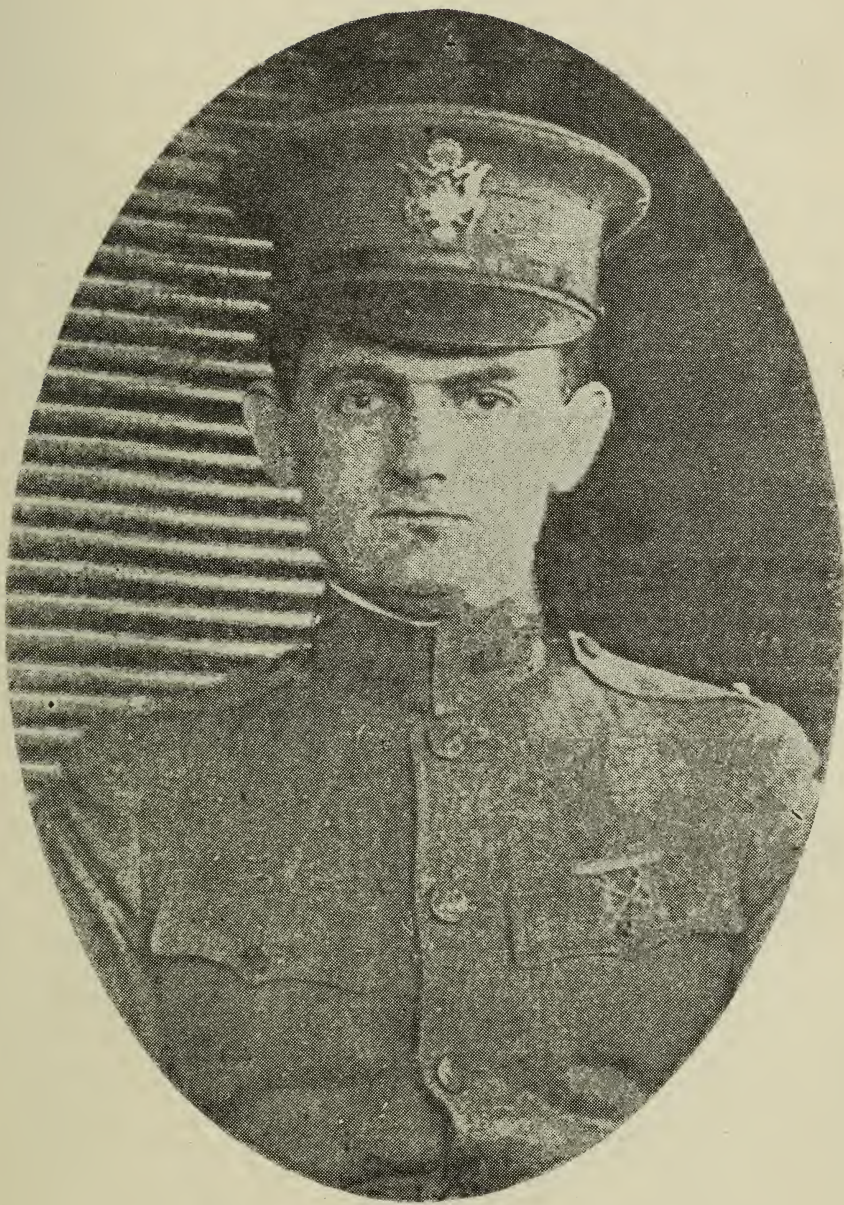
At the time they returned from border service, the dark clouds of the coming conflict with Germany were hovering over the country. Just as eagerly, however, they responded to the summons to the colors, when on July 25, 1917, a little over a year after Company B was summoned for border service, President Wilson again ordered mobilization of the national guard of the United States and once more the armory became a scene of activity, as preparations were made for the long journey ahead, which was to end in Company B facing the enemy of civilization on the western front in France.

Although Company B was ordered mobilized on July 25, 1917, it was not until six weeks later that the local military organization entrained for Camp Logan, Texas, and in the meantime, as a result of the wave of patriotism spreading over the nation, scores of young men from Hoopeston and surrounding country flocked to the colors, joining the local company and accompanying the organization to Camp Logan, where it arrived on September 13, to undergo a long period of intensive training, to fit itself for the serious work of crushing the Hun.

Shortly after arrival at the training camp, members of the company lost their beloved commander, Captain John H. Steward, who was transferred to command of Company D, while Captain Burgehein took over the command of the Hoopeston Company. Eight months were spent at Camp Logan, where the troops were trained in every art of modern warfare.

On May 2, Company B broke camp and word quickly spread that the troops were at last going overseas. The company entrained on this date and were soon enroute to the Atlantic seaboard.

Following the arrival of Company B on the Atlantic coast, the boys stopped for a short time at Cornwall, New York, close



First Lieutenant Mitchell S. Cash



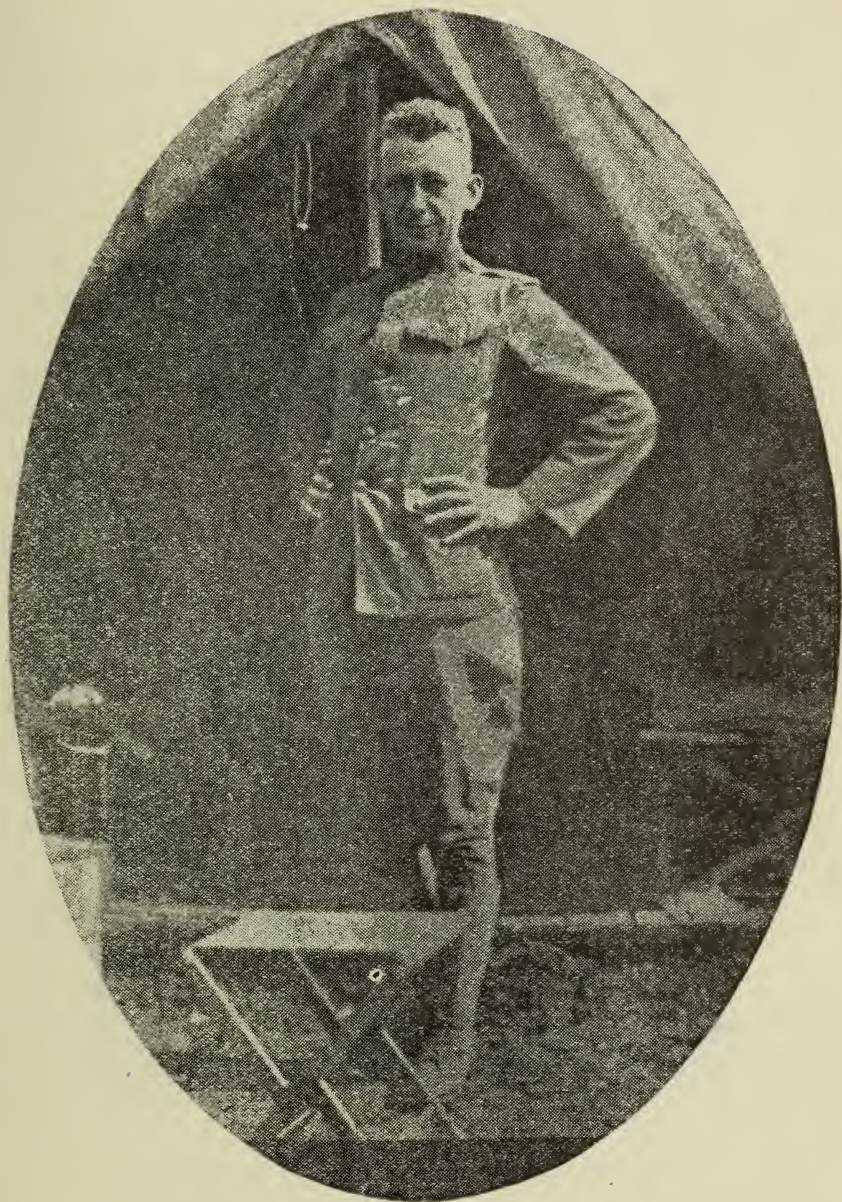
to West Point military academy. Shortly afterward the company journeyed down the Hudson River to Long Island and thence to Camp Upton. The barracks here were destined to be their last home in America for an unknown period, for shortly afterward final clothing was distributed and every indication pointed to an early departure overseas.

It was on the night of May 10, 1918, that orders came to go aboard transport. In the middle of the night, Company B, with other units of the thirty-third division, silently went aboard trains and ferries, which carried them to the docks at Hoboken. At the latter place the Hoopston Company boarded the Transport Covington, a seized German merchant ship, formerly named the Cincinnati. At three o'clock on the morning of May 11, the Covington weighed anchor and started on its perilous voyage over the submarine infested seas, enroute to France. Strong convoys escorted the transports loaded with their precious human freight. The journey "over there" was entirely without incident. Company B arrived at Brest, France, on May 24, 1918.

Upon disembarkation Company B proceeded to Pontantezon barracks, one time headquarters of the great Napoleon and located three kilometers from Brest. The soldiers were placed under rigid quarantine and remained there 27 days.

Following their long stay at this camp, orders came to move and French trains carried them a tiresome journey of two days and three nights to a British sector, where they were for the first time within hearing of the big guns, located not far from Hamel, where on July 4, an Illinois unit, in conjunction with the Australians, experienced its first baptism of fire, thrilling America with their daring capture of Hamel and routing the enemy. It was during this battle that Company B, with the 129th Infantry remained in support, ready to enter the battle if called upon.

Several weeks were spent in this sector where their training was continued by British instructors and about the middle of July they proceeded to the Amiens sector, directly behind the Australians, when different detachments were sent into the front lines and given their first taste of actual warfare. On August first Company B was pronounced fit and capable of meeting the hun on equal terms and on that day the company was transferred to the Albert sector, where it remained until the latter part of the month, taking its turn in the trenches and sending back to the "heinies," as good as they sent. It was here that they sustained their first casualty, Corporal Harry Sartwell sustaining a shrapnel wound in the neck that later resulted in him being invalided home. Following their "bit" on the Albert front, Company B journeyed by rail to the Toul sector, remaining there for 26 days. Things were a bit more exciting on this front, frequent

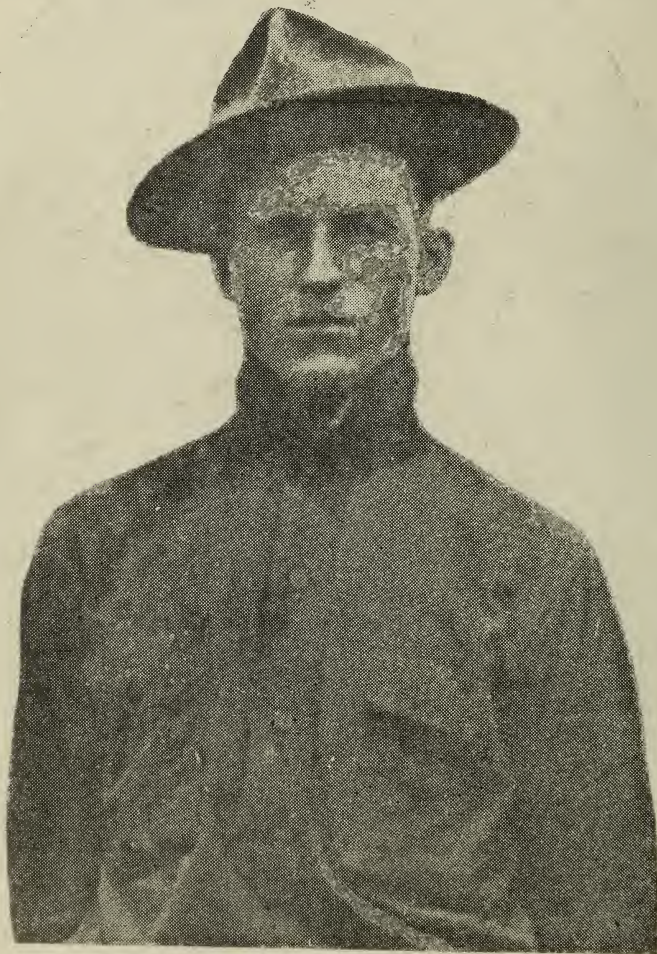


Lieut. Lloyd P. Petry



brushes being had with the enemy, sometimes on a small scale and again quite better.

It was on September 26, the day the great Meuse-Argonne battle opened, that Company B engaged in its greatest combat with the enemy. The Hoopston boys were among the thousands that started to mop up the great forest, marking some of the



**Sergeant Earl R. Deck**  
**Company B, 129th U. S. Infantry**

fiercest fighting of the war. Open warfare succeeded trench fighting of the war. Open warfare succeeded trench fighting and with only stumps of trees to protect themselves, and resist the enemy's terrific counter attacks, the gallant men from Hoopston with their comrades, inch by inch forced the enemy back.



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



Company B, 129th Infantry, I. N. G.

Day and night the battle raged, the enemy using a storm of shells and impregnating the thickly wooded country with clouds of poison gas.

It was during the height of this great battle they sustained their first major casualties, Sergeant Fred A. Kennedy, who gave up his job with the Lake Erie & Western railroad at Rankin and whose parents live in Cincinnati, Ohio, made the supreme sacrifice. Albert Kallinski, of Hoopston, a former employe of the Vermilion Malleable Iron Works, was also killed, together with \_\_\_\_\_ Lawrence, a drafted soldier, who had been assigned to Company B. Sergeant Earl R. Deck received a shrapnel wound in his right leg, which later caused the amputation of the limb.

Company B, along with other companies of the 129th Infantry, was subjected during this battle to the worst gas attack that had been launched by the Germans during the whole war, resulting in almost completely putting them out of action. Scores of men were sent to the hospital, among them being Captain Steward and Lieutenant Lloyd P. Petry. The few men who did not succumb to the gas attack, continued to hold their lines until relieved by battalion reserves, Company B being sent back to rest camp, the first they had experienced almost from the day they landed in France.

Remaining in reserve until October 8, Company B was rushed to Boise Du Chaume, where the 129th regiment took part in driving the hun across the Meuse river, and following the enemy over this bloody stretch, they attacked the Kaiser's strong shock troops and started them on the run for Berlin.

From October 5, until the night of October 21, Company B, along with the rest of the brigade held the right half of the thirty-third division sector, east of the Meuse, with the sixty-sixth brigade on their left, or on the west bank of the Meuse river. They were finally relieved there by the fifteenth French Colony division.

After their relief from this sector, Company B was transferred to the St. Mihiel front, where the thirty-third division relieved the 79th division, being in close approximation to Metz, which was the goal of the American forces at this period of the war. Things became lively again and frequent raids and patrol encounters occurred, in which the boys of Company B participated. They were also subjected to heavy and continuous enemy shell fire.

On November 11, the sixty-fifth brigade, headed by the 129th infantry, of which Company B was the second company, attacked and captured Chateau Aulnois Riaville, Marcheville and several other small French towns quickly fell. At this moment the word was flashed around the world that the armistice had been signed and the order came to cease hostilities. The war came to an end,



just as the Illinois boys were on the verge of smashing the Hindenburg line at this point. After which Metz would have been their destination.

Upon the cessation of hostilities, Company B was billeted for some days in various French towns. Later the thirty-third division was honored by being selected as a part of the army of occupation in support, and Company B with other units marched across beautiful Alsace-Lorraine to Luxembourg, covering the 123-mile journey in ten days.

Their winter stay in Luxembourg will never be forgotten by the returning soldier boys, for the hospitality of the French



COL. G. H. GREENE AND STAFF. Eighth from left is Lieutenant Frederick K. Boudinard, formerly a private in Company B, who was transferred to headquarters Company April 18, 1918, at Camp Logan, Texas.

was unbounded and the restrictions imposed upon them were not so severe as prevailed with that part of the American army that occupied the west bank of the Rhine, in Germany. Upon sailing for home, Company B embarked at Brest, the port where the boys first set foot in France and arrived in Hoopeston on June 7, 1919.



The story of Company B covers the greater portion of the boys who saw active service in France and in the army during the world war, although there were many others, who volunteered, or who were inducted into the service and who were during the entire period of the war, in other organizations.

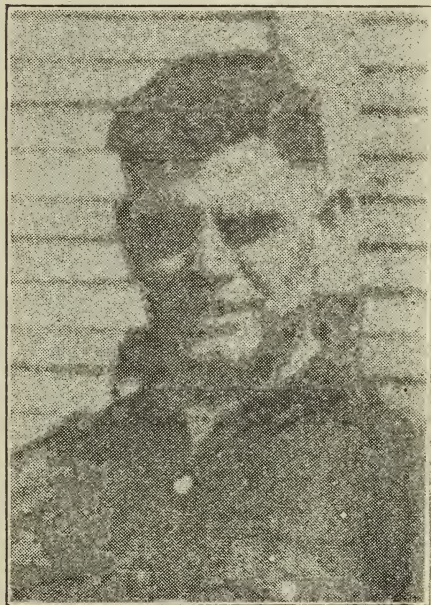
The record of these men's service is perhaps best covered in the following "Honor Roll" which carries the names of members of Company B, as well as those who served in other organizations, as follows:



**Lieut. Alba Cromer**

Ford Bradley, Ralph Bradley, Clarence Polo Bray, Dale Brougher, Charles Milton Bruff, jr., Thomas Brown, Fred Buchler, jr., George L. Burtis, Harry D. Burtis, Coy H. Burton, Charles F. Bushnell, Frank A. Butts, Charles H. Byrd, Lester Campbell, Mitchell T. Cash, Frank Cassady, Floyd Monroe, Cheney, Leon R. Chenoweth, Myrle Milton Clements, Alvin

Harold C. Adsit, Harvey Dyer Adkins, Monroe Adkins, Arthur L. Ambler, Phillip Anderson, John Herbert Arnold, Roy Artist, Charles Albert Bailey, Roy Barnes, Clyde Barnet, Virgil Bass, J. W. Y. Beatty, Homer H. Beall, William Bear, Bruce Bennett, Jesse Bennet, Gifford Berg, George D. Betka, Walter Birge, Leslie B. Bishop, Aubrey B. Bloomfield, Curtis Love Boardman, VINCENT R. BOARDMAN, Victor Bolinski, John Rosslyn Boorde, Frederick K. Boudinard, Sidney H. Bradd,



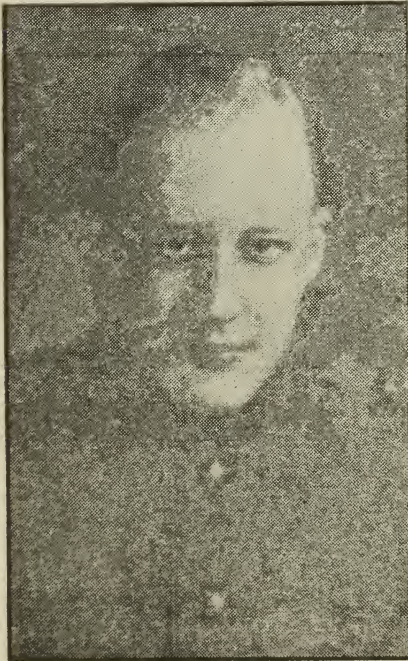
**F. K. Boudinard**



Cobb, John E. Colbert, James L. Cole, Oscar Cole, William Henry Cole, Floyd W. Coleman, John Jacob Collins, Mark Collins, Ray Collins, Reed G. Cook, Ralph Coon, Elijah A. Cooper, Harry Cooper, David Edward Copas, Henry F. Cosgrove, John L. Cosgrove, Clarence E. Crane, A. C. H. Cromer, A. J. Dallstream, Guy Dallstream, L. P. Daniel, Fred Davis, Roy Davidson, Earl R. Deck, Lester R. Deck, Albert Deck, Todd Decker, Clifford Otto Denton, Wylie E. Dorsett, Irbie Downey, Morris Downey, Loren A. Dukes, Leonard Esco Duncan, Charles Furness Dyer, Lucien B. Dyer, Dr. Fred E. Earel, Fred W. Ellerman, Frank Ellis, Virgil Leroy Engle, John Wiley Ernest, Walter R. Ernest,



**L. H. Deck**



**Lieut. A. J. Dallstream**

Enos Leo Erwin, Glenn Faurote, Carter Farrell, Garrett Hobart Finch, McKinley Finch, Russell Carlyle Finley, Frank E. Fish, Orvia W. Fish, Earl J. Fisher, Lawrence Fitzgerald, Charles S. Flexman, Claude Forshier, Morris R. Foster, Monta French, Frank J. Fundle, Joshua W. Galloway, Roy Gannon, Henry M. Garrett, Christ V. George, Charles D. Gilman, Hugh Douglas Gilman, Charles Gordon Glover, Roy E. Goin, Floyd Goin, Dewey Gossett, Fred Grant Green, Glenn B. Green, William Stanley Green, Alec M. Griffin, John James Griffin, Garrett H. Griggs, Ward E. Guest, Russell Hall, Basil Halsell, William Hamilton, George Edwin Harbert, Benjamin Albert Harding, Clarence Eugene Harding, Nathaniel S. G. Harding, Earl Harkness,





**Capt. C. F. Dyer**

KREAGER, Orla Kreager, James Ernest Krell, Harvey LaBounty, Lawrence L. Lane, Raymond Leeper, TADE LAYDEN, JR., Edward R. Larrabee, Martin Lawson, Joe Levinski, William Levinski, Harold Lewis, Orpheus Lewis, Knoesel Lockhart, David W. Long, George A. Long, Earl Longfellow, Elmer C. Longfellow, Robert V. Longfellow, Robert J. Love, Amp Lovelace, William H. Lucas, Claire Evans Lyon, Ralph M. Lyons, Harold Madden, Carl E. Madden, Leo Marquis, Frank Martin, George Martin, Will F. Martin, Dr. Robert S. McCaughey, Thurman McLain, Clellon L. McDonald, Donald J. McFerren, William McFerren,

John E. Harkrider, John P. Hawkins, LEWIS T. HAWKINS, William D. Hawkins, Kale Hazany, Dr. John B. Hazel, jr., Blaine N. Heaton, Benjamin H. Hicks, Charles D. Hinkle, Charles L. Hobson, Clyde C. Halloway, John H. Hoover, Lemmie H. Hoover, Fremont Hoskins, Ralph Houghton, John J. Huling, jr., Ernest Hutson, Frank R. James, William A. James, William H. Jernagan, Franklin R. Johnson, Glenn O. Johnson, Harry Parker Jones, Earl Justice, Leo B. Karn, Harold C. Keister, Leroy Merle Keister, Orville E. Keplinger, Joseph B. Kerr, George D. Kimberlin, Isaac Kinneer, Harry A. Kivell, C. Berne Knell, B. Boyd Knell, William Leonard Kolb, ALBERT KALINSKI, IRA OWEN



**Capt. L. B. Dyer**



Bertrand F. McKinney, Earl R. Means, Edward D. Means, John W. Meloy, Bernard J. Mertens, Charles Daniel Miller, Clarence S. Miller, Franklin Miller, Rev. J. W. Miller, Sam Miller, Herman Mitchell, Leslie Moore, Frank B. Morgan, Charles G. Morrison, John W. Murphy, Lewis A. Murray, Louie Murray, William A.



Lieut. Harry R. Kivell

Musk, Ralph W. Musson, Reed F. Musson, Hilbert Neathery, Jeane E. Newburn, Harold J. Newburn, Charles Nicholas, Walter R. Noble, Earl W. Nussear, Harold M. Olehy, Eddie L. Oliver, Ozro Oliver, Omar Parks, Samuel F. Pedigo, Edwin Penney, Athanasios C. Pergakes, Dennis M. Perkins, M. O. Peterson, Raymond S. Peterson,

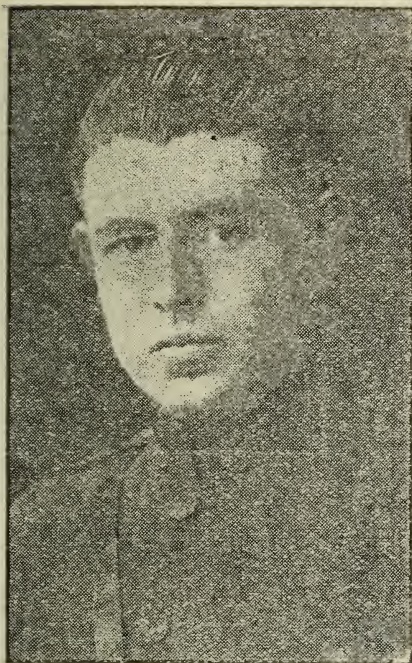


Lieut. Joseph B. Kerr



Louis J. Willett





Lieut. Claude Forshier

(Blakely) Silver, Ira Simmons, Park T. Timmons, Edward Smith, Elmer Smith, John N. Smith, Paul Smith, Thomas P. Smith, Glenn J. Smythe, Frank P. Snider, Gilbert M. Southwick, Amos Spears, Thomas Spears, Russell Spickard, Vernon A. Spickard, John H. Steward, Ray Stewart, RALPH W. STINE, Charles S. Stokes, Knight G. Stone, Harry T. Sunderland, Grant Swafford, Paul C. Swanson, Fred D. Swisher, Tony Tarasewich, Charles Earl Taylor, Clarence Taylor, Herbert Cecil Taylor, Dwight H. Thomas, Clyde Thompson, Charles Thompson, Luttrell Thompson, Earl C. Thornton, Harry M. Thornton, Ted Thornton, James

George S. Petry, Lloyd P. Petry, Ezra T. Piercy, Floyd Merle Powley, Victor Ree Preston, Elmer M. Probasco, George H. Probasco, George H. Raasch, Herschel Ray Ransom, Robert R. Remster, Ivan L. ReVeal, Cassie Rice, Forrest Riggs, Leonard D. Roark, James H. Robertson, Walter C. Robertson, Lee C. Robinson, Clarence A. Roe, Joseph J. Rote, Elmer E. Rush, Eugene Rusk, Wayne Rusk, Floyd W. Russell, Peter Ryomolski, Bernard Samuels, Clarence Sappington, Floyd Sargent, George Sargent, Harry Sartwell, Elwood Scarlet, Martone E. Scarlet, William S. Schade, Leon E. Sharon, William S. Sharon, Forest Shinn, Michael Said, William Franklin Sills, Aubrey Reed Silver, Leon



Lieut. Clarence S. Miller



Frederick Tilton, Ralph G. Tilton, Lester W. Townsend, Clyde Troxel, Walter Trumble, Frank A. Tayler, Everett Van Dorn, Ray Van Dorn Emery Vaughn, Charles Wagner, Fred R. Wakefield, Guy E. Wakeland, Balsley Walker, Arthur Leslie Walker, Ernest P. Walker, Bert E. Wallace, Lawrence Wyer, Richard M. York, George Kenneth York, William F. Wallace, Arthur W. Waugh, Roy Waugh, Dr. A. C. Weaver, Daniel Weaver, Mac C. Weaver, Ralph Steven Webber, Walter Henry Webber, Floyd Westfall, Charles M. Whaite, Clifford Harold Whittaker, Robert C. Whittaker, William Henry Whittington, Lewis Glenn Willis, Doan Silver Williams, Leland T. Williams, Lewis C. Williams, Welby Williams, John Wilson, Read Wintersteen, Victor Wilson, Glenn W. Woods, George Wintermantel, Martin Wintermantel, Glenn Wood, William Henry Woodward, James A. Woodhouse, Louis J. Willett and Maxwell Zook.

(In the above honor roll, those names set in capital letters are those who made the supreme sacrifice for their country, being killed in France or dying while in the service of their country.)

The following nurses volunteered for service in the great war, the first two named serving with the Red Cross in France:

Miss Kate Wintermantel, Miss Nellie Ross, Miss Frances Bradley.



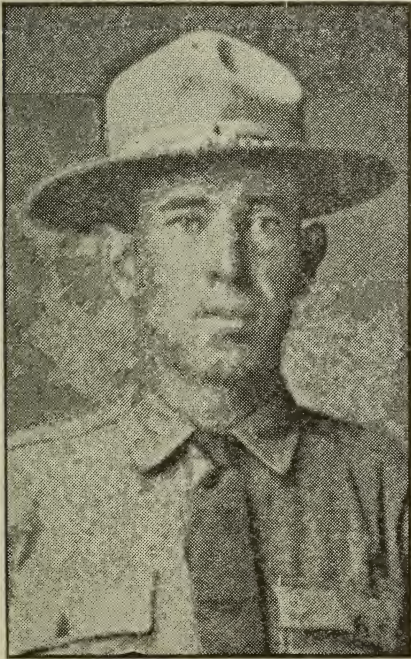
**E. C. Thornton**

## HOME ACTIVITIES

### Services Performed by Selective Service and Exemption Board

Dr. L. B. Russell, Frank Creighton and John B. Wallbridge were appointed by the President of the United States as members of the Local Board for Division No. 1, County of Vermilion, State of Illinois, with headquarters in Hoopeston, Illinois, and this board organized June 30, 1917, by electing Frank Creighton, chairman, John B. Wallbridge, secretary, and Dr. L. B. Russell as physician of the board.

Division No. 1 consisted of ten townships, viz: Grant, Butler, Middlefork, Ross, Pilot, Blount, Newell, Oakwood, Vance and Jamaica. Owing to the size of the district the residence of some of the registrants was about fifty miles from the board office. The total number of registrants was 5,476. Out of this number the board classified about 5,000 and inducted into service 633 men, and in addition to this there were, 175 voluntary enlistments. The board physically examined 1,261 men. Out of this number that was sent to camp, 44 were rejected on second examination. The hours of the members of the board were all hours



First Lieutenant Ralph W. Stine, who gave up his life early in the great Verdun Battle was the only member of Company E to be honored with the distinguished service cross, the highest honor bestowed by the United States Government for bravery in action. This insignia granted posthumously is now the proud possession of his parents who live in Paxton, Illinois. He met death while engaged in wiping out machine gun nests on September 26, 1918, in the Verdun sector. He was formerly a principal of the Hoopeston High school and enlisted in Company B won his commission at training school and just prior to the departure of Company B for overseas service was transferred to Company L, 132nd U. S. Infantry.

of the day and night, for much of the time from the date they entered the service until the armistice was signed, in fact for some time thereafter, they put in about 14 hours a day on the average. While there were no duties to perform after the armistice nevertheless they were not demobilized for many months.

The board was greatly assisted by the volunteer help of many patriotic men and women of Hoopeston. By their aid the board members were enabled to do the work required of them promptly.

The members of the board were told immediately after entering the service that they could not resign. Death was the only excuse for not serving and but for good cause shown the government might send them to Fort Leavenworth penitentiary.

This board during its administration played no favorites. The registrant's religious faith or political affiliation, or whether they were rich or poor, standing in society made no difference with the board. The board found some registrants were extremely anxious to go to war while others were just the reverse and did everything in their power to secure exemption. However, almost every registrant when finally called to the colors came cheerfully and went forward with all determination to do his full duty.

---

## RED CROSS ACTIVITIES

---

In February, 1917, the Hoopeston chapter of the American Red Cross was organized. After the membership dues had been paid the next call for money was for \$3,200. This was responded to liberally and \$4,200 was raised. From that time on there were many calls and much money expended but every demand was met with an oversubscription. The membership at the end of the war numbered around 2,000. The second floor of the Commercial Club building was used as a workroom together with the basement of the library building and here they made and shipped 319 sweaters, 206 helmets, 1,322 sox, 16 scarfs, 252 wristlets, 654 refugee garments, 1,313 hospital garments, 40 vests, 159 kits, 50 waterproof bags and many other useful articles. Besides this there were collected and shipped, 4,000 pounds of used clothing to the unfortunates in the war zone of Europe. The 1917 drive for Red Cross membership netted a total of 1,287 members and the 1918 drive gathered in 1,325 members. The membership fee was \$1 and some paid \$2.

During the influenza epidemic many cases were attended individually by the Red Cross until the officials say a temporary hospital must be established which was opened on the second floor of the Commercial Club building. Many cases were cared for at this place and many persons owe their lives to this institution. A number of women and some men were devoted to the work, giving their entire time free to help their unfortunate



brothers and sisters. The expenses were borne entirely by the Red Cross.

During the harvest time of 1918 when the farmers were unable to get help to take care of their grain, between 75 and 100 men went voluntarily to the fields each evening for over a week and shocked oats for two hours or more. The farmers generally made a liberal donation to the Red Cross for this work.

In the fall of 1918 a Grant Township Red Cross day was held, netting \$4,196.35, in which all citizens took part. The country people brought in many articles of produce together with some livestock which with the donations of the townspeople were auctioned off for the benefit of the organization.

In summing up the activities of the Grant Township Red Cross we must say it has done exceptionally good work, always going "over the top" in everything.

---

## COMMUNITY WAR CHEST

---

It only required two drives, one for the Red Cross and one for the Y. M. C. A. to demonstrate that Grant Township should devise some better method for raising the amount of money that would be required to meet the many demands that the authorized war activities would call for. With this in mind there was a committee appointed to carefully go over the resources of Grant Township and also make a careful estimate of about what demand would be made on the township for a year. After this had been done and the committee was satisfied with their work they started a campaign of instruction. This was early in March, 1917. The drive was then put on for the necessary amount of funds asking the contributors to make their pledges for from March 1, 1917 until March 1, 1918.

This was successful as the people responded nobly with few exceptions. Everybody wanted to do their part to help bring the world war to a close. The amount of subscriptions secured and collected through this organization was \$24,199.56, plus \$4,096.35, receipts from carnival day, making a total of \$28,295.91. This enabled Grant Township to meet every demand of authorized war needs that was made and with 100 per cent the war coming to a close made it possible for the discontinuance of the collection of these funds after January 1, 1919. Therefore the pledges that were made for one year were only asked to pay ten months. Those who had paid for the full year in advance were refunded two months.

The officers of the Grant Township War Workers Association were: E. J. Boorde, chairman; I. E. Merritt, Vice Chairman; George E. Evans, secretary and treasurer. The board of directors consisted of J. S. Catherwood, chairman; W. C. Welty, Rev.

Fr. Gahlman, Ellsworth Iliff and Rev. A. S. Chapman. It was the duty of the board of directors to audit treasurer's accounts, pass on all bills, and investigate before paying any of the demands made upon the association; in fact the funds of the association were entirely in the custody of the board of directors.

---

## THE LIBERTY LOAN DRIVES

---

The late Ernest X. LeSeure, of Danville, had been named county chairman of the Liberty Loan Drive Committee, and I. E. Merritt, of Hoopeston, head of the Hoopeston National Bank was his second in command—vice president—of the county organization.

To Elijah J. Boorde, manager of the Hoopeston Telephone Company was allotted the task of organizing Grant Township for the first liberty loan drive and so well was the work of Mr. Merritt and Mr. Boorde done that long before the time limit set for Hoopeston's quota to be raised the county chairman was informed that Hoopeston was "over the top."

The quota of Grant Township in the first liberty loan was \$170,000 and it was heavily oversubscribed.

The second, third, fourth and victory loans were duplicates of the first loan and it was never necessary that intensive work be done other than the organization tasks effected beforehand. Each time the call went out for more money to prosecute the war, Hoopeston went down into her pockets.

The quota of the second Liberty Loan was \$297,000. The sum of \$312,000 was subscribed. This was an oversubscription of \$15,000.

The quota of the third liberty loan was \$258,000. The amount subscribed was \$325,000, an oversubscription of \$67,000.

The quota for the fourth liberty loan was \$339,448 and the sum of \$267,000 was subscribed, an oversubscription of \$26,552.

The fifth liberty loan quota was \$253,800. It was reached in less than a week and \$312,000 was raised, an oversubscription of \$58,200.

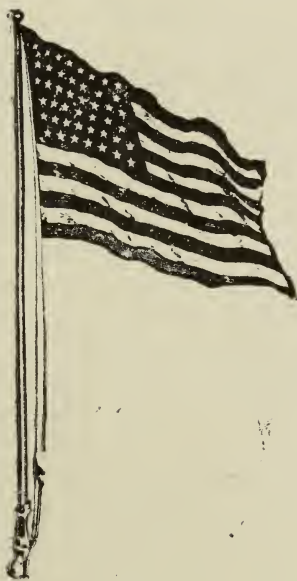
The liberty loans were handled through Hoopeston's two banks, the Hoopeston National and the First National bank. From the first to the fifth—or Victory loan, which was raised after the armistice had been signed. All were oversubscribed.

---

There were countless other sacrifices made cheerfully at the time and without a thought of what they were costing, that have been lost to history. There was no attempt made to record them—they were commonplace—the things that had to be done and Hoopeston did them.

Hoopeston's record in the world war will bear the scrutiny of the most exacting and is deserving of a place alongside that of cities of the land who stand at the top of the ladder of patriotism. Each rung of that ladder was made of sacrifice, of something denied at home that those at the front might have their burden lightened.

The months between the armistice and present day have cast the shadow of Time's effacing hand over the days of sorrow and heartbreak, when each night brought its new casualty list and the careful searching for names of near and dear ones, but none in Hoopeston have forgotten those days and their deeds, and none have forgotten the names of those who at home were the leaders in war work.







## Lodges and Organizations

---

Ira Owen Kreager Post, American Legion—Grand Army of the Republic—Daughters of the American Revolution—Star Lodge No. 709, A. F. & A. M.—Hoopeston Chapter 181, R. A. M.—Modern Woodmen of America—M. H. C. Club—Knights of Columbus—I. O. O. F.—L. O. O. M.

---

Hoopeston has many lodges and organizations that are in a prosperous and growing condition. As the town grew from the bare prairie to the present day city of 6,000, these organizations were organized and brought into existence by their sponsors, who felt the need of a particular form of social or fraternal activity at the moment. They have filled a place in the life of the city that could not be taken by any other form of endeavor and among their various charters are to be found the names of practically all of those pioneers, who aided in the founding of Hoopeston, or who in later years assisted in its development, by giving untiringly of their time and money.

Of the fraternal organizations the Masonic lodges are the oldest in Hoopeston and of the patriotic organizations, the Grand Army of the Republic, with only twelve surviving members. Ira Owen Kreager Post, of the American Legion, is the youngest of the patriotic organizations and as the present generation leaders are made up of those men who gave of their lives to the military forces of the United States, so the following resume of the lodges and organizations is started with the history of this youngest organization, already felt as one of the biggest forces in Hoopeston's community life.

## IN MEMORIAM



**IRA OWEN KREAGER**

Ira Owen Kreager was born in Gratiot, Ohio, March 25, 1893, coming to Hoopston with his parents in 1906. He entered the military service on April 27, 1918, being sent by the local selective service board to Camp Grant, Illinois. After a short period there he went to Camp Travis, Texas, where he was assigned to Company B. 358th U. S. Infantry, 19th division, comprising Texas and Oklahoma National Army men. He accompanied his division overseas and was killed by a fragment of high explosive shell in the Argonne Forest battle, on October 27, 1918.



## IRA OWEN KREAGER POST, NO. 384, AMERICAN LEGION

---

**Foreword**


---

When the United States declared war upon Germany and her allies, she called to her colors the pick of the land, the youth of a youthful country. Never before had the full force of the land been called upon to be thrown against an enemy nation and it was with frankly approving eyes that she called upon those that represented the strength of the nation—her youth.



Ill-versed in methods of modern warfare, unprepared as to equipment, with no general, or commander, who had ever maneuvered more than 30,000 men, they went in an never-ending stream to the battlefields of Europe. With their going

the result of the war was settled in the hearts and minds of every American, whether soldiers or civilians. No such word as "Failure" had ever been written in the history of American warfare. The inevitable happened, and the American army rested on its arms, conscious of a victory well earned. The confidence of this great republic had not been misplaced, shoulder to shoulder, the rich man and the poor man had fought, class was forgotten and a comradeship was created that was to endure to the end of time. How fitting it was, that shortly after the close of the war, a great society was formed by these "buddies"—without regard to rank or position. They had met on common ground—the battlefield—and each had seen below the surface of the other, the real man. It was to these real men that the American Legion was dedicated. Such was the foundation upon which that vast structure, the American Legion, was built.

---

Shortly after the return of the soldiers from the great war, in fact before all had returned, the Ira Owen Kreager Post of the American Legion was organized. The post was named in memory of Ira Owen Kreager, who was the first Hoopeston soldier to be killed in action on the battlefields of Europe. Enough members to secure a charter were pledged and with Charles F. Dyer as the first commander, the post began its career.

Charter members of the post were as follows:

John R. Boorde, Peter Cerokas, Carl A. Dodson, Irbey Downey, Fred E. Earel, Russell C. Finley, Morris R. Foster, Christ V. George, Fred G. Green, William Stanley Green, Earl W. Harkness, Charles D. Hinkle, Glenn O. Johnson, Bert A. Knoll, Orla Kreager,

Frank S. Martin, D. J. McFerren, William McFerren, Clarence S. Miller, Sylvester J. Murray, Lloyd P. Petry, Charles Phillips, Thomas Regalley, Ivan L. ReVeal, Frank B. Morgan, Thomas P. Smith, Fred B. Swisher, Everett VanDorn, Louis G. Willett, Dewey Gossett and Charles F. Dyer.

With the return of Company B, bringing with it the greater number of the local soldiers, the scope of the post began to enlarge. At the first annual meeting Captain "Jack" Steward was elected commander to guide the destinies of the organization through the year 1920. It was a year filled with eventful things in the life of the local post. Club rooms were secured and appropriately furnished and the post established itself as a going concern. A benefit carnival that was entered into with spirit and zest by both Legion members and citizens, netted the post considerable over a thousand dollars. Dr. Fred Earel, as chairman of the carnival committee, made it such a success that his name was brought forward without opposition for commander of the post during the following year.

With fitting ceremony, Commander Earel was ushered into office, Past Commander Steward turning over to him an organization, small, but working harmoniously toward a greater future.

Commander Earel's first official act was to appoint a membership committee with instructions to solicit every eligible man. As a result of the ensuing campaign 183 members were enrolled and the post became a recognized force in the community. An active committee promoted dances throughout the year and a Legion basketball team was put into the field. This year, feeling the responsibility too great for their declining years, the G. A. R. Post, asked that the Legion formally take charge of the Memorial Day services.

Probably no greater honor shall ever be given to the local post of the American Legion, than was bestowed upon them by this act of the G. A. R. The implicit faith that was shown when these gray haired veterans of a former war turned over the memory of their illustrious dead to the American Legion was the greatest honor one American soldier could show another. And the Legion pledged itself to keep this day of memory, sacred. Fitting services are performed that day each year by the Legion, with the G. A. R. occupying a position of honor. As is fitting, the flag of the G. A. R. flies side by side with that of the Legion, with a common color guard.

On Labor Day a monster celebration under the guidance of C. F. Dyer was planned and carried through successfully. With the profit from this undertaking, it was thought an auspicious time for the considering of a club house. The matter was brought up but finally dropped until a more suitable time. Shortly after the annual election was held and Floyd Sargent was elected and assumed command of the post.

Installation of Commander Sargent and his staff of officers was one of the best occasions of its kind since the organization of the post, a large percentage of the membership being present when Past Commander Earel expressed the hope and opinion that the succeeding administration would build a legion, greater than any previous administration, and urged the members to give the incoming officers the co-operation that would make it possible. Amid a riot of welcoming, Floyd Sargent assumed the command of the post.

In his inaugural address, Commander Sargent gave an outline of what his ambitions concerning the legion were, and what he hoped to have accomplished before his term expired. Among these were the following:

Formation of a Ladies' Auxiliary.

Increased membership.

Meetings with a fair percent of the membership present.

Plans laid, at least, for a permanent home.

During the forepart of the administration, the body of Ira Owen Kreager was returned from France for burial in this country. Commander Sargent, accompanied by Orla Kreager, brother of the deceased, went to the place of burial in Indiana, there representing the local post. The body was lowered into its last resting place with appropriate ceremonies, the Indiana post of the Legion co-operating with Commander Sargent to make it possible.



**Franklin Johnson**

Early in the summer, the funds of the post began to run low and it was decided to hold an indoor carnival. A committee was appointed with George Raasch as chairman to carry out this and the result more than justified the hope of the promoters. The next event of importance was the annual Labor Day celebration held in McFerren park. This affair, under the management of Vice-Commander Johnson was a big success and turned in a goodly sum to the finance officer of the post. For the balance of the year the post was under the active leadership of Vice-Commander Johnson, Commander Sargent having left the city. At the annual election of officers,

the resignation of the commander was read and the executive committee voted to place the vice-commander in his place. Charles L. Beeman was selected to fill the position of vice-commander, left vacant by the appointment.

Election night saw one of the most enthusiastic meetings of the year. Interest was heightened by the number of candidates for the various offices and the closeness of the contests in nearly every case. Commander Johnson was re-elected with Henry



Cosgrove as vice-commander and Charles L. Beeman as Adjutant. Gary L. Finch was elected finance officer and Thomas P. Smith re-elected sergeant-at-arms.

Reviewing the past year it will be noted that an auxiliary was formed in accordance with Commander Sargent's wish (1923.)

C. A. Bailey was elected commander of the post in 1924 and his administration was one of the most successful in the history of the post. It was during this administration that it was determined to hold the Fourth of July celebration in Hoopeston as an annual Legion affair, because of the success of the event in 1923. The 1924 celebration was one of the greatest events ever staged by an organization in Hoopeston.

When time for the annual election of officers came around again in November, 1924, the name of Leonard Roark was placed in nomination and he was elected to succeed Commander Bailey. Commander Roark took office at the opening of 1925 and this brings the story of the Legion organization up to the present day.

---

### HARMON POST NO. 115, G.A.R.

---

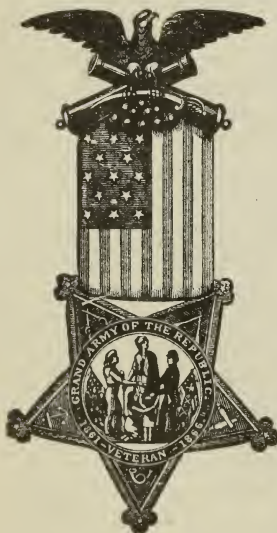
Harmon Post No. 115, of the Grand Army of the Republic, was organized on November 11, 1881 and there were 243 members on the roster at one time. Veterans who had fought in the Blue and the Gray from 17 states were included in the membership list. Six foreign nations, Germany, Ireland, Switzerland, Sweden, France and Canada, all had sons who were numbered in the membership of the post. There were 65 members who came from the state of Indiana, 41 from Ohio, 11 from Pennsylvania and 19 from New York.

In February 1925, there were only twelve members remaining on the roster as follows:

Myron Sibbitt, Honeywell Avenue; Alexander Taylor, Seminary Avenue; Sam Blakeley, McCracken Avenue; John Towner, South Market street; Arthur Davis, North Market street; Abe Kimberlin, East Lincoln street; William Rice, East Washington street; Peter Reitz, South Fourth street;

Charles Miller; W. A. Briggs, Wyman Avenue; W. L. Townsley, Young Avenue and William Silvers, South Fifth street.

W. L. Townsley, of Hoopeston, is the present commander of the G. A. R. post, which has given over many of its activities



to a younger veterans' organization, Ira Owen Kreager Post, of the American Legion, which is told about in another section of this book. Included among the things that have been given over is the conducting of Memorial Day, May 31, of each year. So long as there is one veteran of the G. A. R. remaining, they will take an active part in the Memorial Day services honoring the hero dead of all wars, but active charge of the day has passed from their "fast failing hands to others consecrated to the same ideals and purposes."

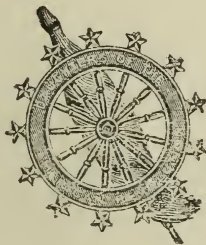
---

## DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

"Put None But Americans On Guard Tonight."

---

Hoopeston's various organizations and lodges number many interesting orders and among the most interesting of all is that of "The Daughters of the American Revolution." Perhaps what makes the organization the most interesting is the fact that in order to become eligible for membership, some ancestor must have rendered military aid to the cause of independence in one of the United Colonies during the Revolutionary war. Hoopeston's chapter of the D. A. R. numbers 65 active members, all of whom have historic ancestors.



Twenty years ago on Thursday, March 19, 1922, the call was first issued for the formation of a chapter of the D. A. R. in Hoopeston.

The patriotic society, the Daughters of the American Revolution, was organized in Washington, D. C., October 11, 1890. There are at the present time about 100,000 active members, organized into over 1,000 local chapters. The actual number of memberships the society has issued in thirty-four years of existence is near 200,000. The National Society was incorporated by Act of Congress in 1896, and in accordance with this act, the delegates meet from all chapters in annual congress in Washington in the week in which April 19 occurs.

Membership is restricted to those women, who are at least 18 years of age, and of whose ancestors at least one, "with unfailing loyalty, rendered martial aid to the cause of independence as a recognized patriot, as a soldier or sailor or as a civil officer in one of the United States Colonies." Every application for membership must be indorsed by at least one member of the national society, and is then submitted to headquarters at Washington,

who then report on the question of eligibility. Upon its approval the applicant is enrolled as a member. The papers, showing their lineage must be filed within one year after presentation of the name.

Object of the society is to "perpetuate memory of the spirit of the men and women who achieved American independence; to promote institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge; to cherish and maintain and extend the institutions of American patriotism and love of country and to aid in securing for mankind all blessings of liberty."

The national society has collected many historic relics, which have been deposited in the United States National Museum in Washington, and it has also a valuable historical and geneological library at headquarters. In 1902 the society purchased a site in Washington and upon this a Memorial Continental Hall was erected.

In preservation of historic relics and places the D. A. R. of Hoopeston is also doing its part. Already they have marked one spot. It is on the Dixie Highway, just west of Hoopeston. A large rock has been placed there, in commemoration of the old Hubbard's Trail, one of the first trails in this part of Illinois.

Each local chapter is named; sometimes after the town in which it is situated, sometimes for an ancestor, or former member. There is only one stipulation in naming a chapter, that it must not be named for any living person. The Hoopeston chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is named Barbara Standish. It was organized September 8, 1905, by Mary Hale Hamilton, who was appointed regent. The charter was received October 4, 1905, and the charter members besides Mrs. Hamilton were as follows: Anna Dillon Williams, vice-regent; Eliza Lukens Williams, corresponding secretary; Anna Coggershalf Chace, recording secretary; Fannie Clark Todd, treasurer; Eunice Sater Harry, historian; Lillian Clark Warner, Jeanetta Cory Chamberlain, Viola Loduska Hanly, Julia Dunfer Smith, Fanny Graggs Tilton, Mary McVay Dunavan, Julia Jones Crary, Isadore McCaughey, Charlottee Lee McFerren, Anna Scott Browne, Emma Andrews and Gertrude Hall Lyons. The chapter now has sixty-five active members as follows:

Lutie Woolverton Rice, regent; Ida McKibben Strong, vice-regent; Grace Schwartz Wallbridge, secretary; Anna Sager Finley, treasurer; Mary Finley Honeywell, registrar; Nancy Finley Crane, chaplain; Phoebe Rawlings Hutton, historian, Florence Davidson Adams, Miss Emma May Andrews, Alla Banta Arnold, Mildren Painter Beeman, Laura Haworth Bell, Irma Crouch Boardman, Helen Corey Boardman, Anna Thompson Boorde, Clarissa Holmes Bond, Flora Chestnut Conant, Edith Finley Corey, Miss Irene Crouch, Amberzilla Cox Crouch, Orrie Albright Cunningham, Margaret Barnes Deatrich, Lillian Lewis Earel, Hallie Beel Erick-



son, Miss Maude Evans, Miss Gladys Evans, Gladys Warner Finch, Addie Reece Finley, Miss Margaret Finley, Miss Elizabeth Franklin Green, Katherine Barnes Greene, Iva Beeman Gustine, Mabel Boorde Harris, Grace Miller Hawkins, Miss Sarah Alice Heaton, Miss Marie Honeywell, Effie Beal Johnson, Jessie Bushnell Jones, Miss Mary Isadore McCaughey, Hazel Brown McFarland, Margaret Dale Mann, Mary Janet Miller, Anna Babcock Morgan, Maude Guy Parnell, Esther Allen Petry, Carrie Harlan Pruitt, Miss Minnie Seavey, Elizabeth Schwartz Shiveler, Hattie Marston Sibbitt, Leota Peters Smith, Nellie Morgan Singleton, Lucy Webb Wallace, Eliza Lukens Williams, Anna Dillon Williams, Margaret Bushnell Woodbury, Lucy Potter Yates, Miss Zerita Schwartz, Nelle Campbell Ogdon, Laura Franklin, Vera Crane Muray, Mary Watson Johnson, Lida Watson.

---

## MASONIC LODGES

---

### Star Lodge, No. 709, A. F. & A. M.

---

Star Lodge No. 709, Free and Accepted Masons, was chartered in 1872. The charter members were: George Steely, William Moore, William Brillhart, Cyrus Hartwell, J. S. Crane, Thomas Williams, Johnathan Bedell, E. D. North and J. M. Spinning.



The names of these charter members it will be noted were those of men all of whom were leaders in the pioneer activities of the city of a civic and political nature and it was fitting that they should organize the Masonic lodge in Hoopeston, which stands at the head of the fraternal life of the city.

It is also significant that the Masonic order was established in Hoopeston in the year 1872—the year that Hoopeston became a city, which means that from the founding of Hoopeston until the present day this order has been the leader in fraternal life.

Membership of Star Lodge numbers on its roster in the year 1925, leaders in the civic, political and social life of the time, in the same proportion as when this lodge was first organized, although the membership of the organization has kept pace with the town and is now numbered among the largest in this section of the state.

The Masonic lodges own their quarters in the Commercial Club building, erection of this structure having been a joint effort between the Masons and the Commercial club. These quarters are the scene of the regular lodge gatherings and are also often-

times the place where social affairs that are always numbered among the most enjoyable in the city are held.

Charles E. Hughes is the present Worshipful Master of Star Lodge and Dan A. Miller is Secretary.

---

### Hoopeston Chapter 181, R. A. M.

---

In the year 1879, there were only fourteen members of Hoopeston Chapter 181, Royal Arch Masons, the second of the Masonic orders which owns this city as a home. From that small number has been built a lodge now numbering over four score of members and that is in a healthy and flourishing condition.

---

### Hoopeston Chapter O. E. S.

---

A large and active chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star is an auxiliary of the Masonic fraternities and many of the social sessions of the Masons are in hands of this organization which numbers the greater portion of the feminine leaders of Hoopeston among its ranks.

---

### Order of Builders

---

Johnathan Bedell Chapter, Order of Builders, is the junior branch of the Masonic Fraternity, a chapter of which flourishes in Hoopeston. This junior chapter has been organized only a few years, but despite this fact is growing rapidly and becoming a worthy auxiliary of the Masonic fraternities.

---

## THE MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

---

Hoopeston Camp No. 257, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized in November 1886, with a membership of ten. It continued to exist until February 17, 1891, when it was re-organized under the same charter. The same charter members took active part in this re-organization as follows:

J. H. Campbell, Andrew and Joseph Dallstream, E. R. McConnell, J. S. Moses, O. C. Rizer, Albert Wolcott, B. H. Sedgwick, Dr. W. R. Wilson and Thomas Woolverton.

Neighbor Frank Bowser was the first Venerable Consul of the order, serving only six months, however, until Neighbor Charles A. Stites was elected to the position. George Deitrich then served two years followed in order by the following venerable consuls up to the present day:

Charles A. Stites, eight years; William Bushnell, one year; Charles Stites, one year; Charles Smith, one year; Charles Stites, two years; Ben Rice, one year; Charles E. Musson, four years; H. A. Rossing, Ed. Nelson, Charles Musson, Bert Stone, Archie Dukes, Edward B. Finch, E. H. Richcreek, William McMurray and H. J. Campbell.

All of these men contributed a part to the achievements of the Woodmen attained in the years of their existence as well as some others not honored in an official capacity but who were among the greatest boosters for the organization.

Neighbor Andrew Dallstream was the first clerk of the Woodmen and labored hard for two years trying to reach the one hundred mark in membership but ninety-five was the best that could be done at that time. Following Clerk Dallstream's death the late C. J. Nelson served one year and was succeeded by Neighbor J. W. Sherill who served only a few months until the late Nelson J. McCoy was elected. Clerk McCoy served for 17 years until the time of his death which occurred on October 11, 1917. The camp at that time had a membership of 342 and was in a prosperous and growing condition when H. W. Birch was named clerk pro-tem to serve until Leroy Songer was elected to the office in November, 1917, to serve the unexpired term of Clerk McCoy. Clerk Songer was re-elected in December 1917 and in 1918 and has been returned to the office each year since by the members.

On April 30, 1925, the membership roster showed 483 members, making the Modern Woodmen in point of numbers one of the strongest of Hoopeston's fraternal institutions. The gain of over 100 members since 1917 has largely been due to the efficient work of Clerk Leroy Songer and other officers with the excellent support that has been given by the membership body.

The Modern Woodmen in addition to their social and fraternal advantages have a "business" side to their organization that is well worth the investigation of every citizen. This is in reference to their insurance benefits, the Hoopeston lodge having made a wonderful record in this field since their establishment in this city.

The Woodmen maintain commodious quarters in The Chronicle-Herald Building at the corner of Main and Bank streets and meet every Wednesday night. Their lodge rooms are also often the scene of special gatherings of a social nature.

Following are the 1925 officers:

W. J. Campbell, Venerable Consul; W. J. McMurray, Past Consul; E. E. Ellis, Adviser; Leroy Songer, Clerk; Thomas F.



Clements, Banker; Donald Ellis, escort; Thomas O. Magee, Watchman; N. A. Norris, Sentry; E. J. Keister, E. C. Endsley and Fred Martin, Trustees; Dr. Fred E. Earel, Dr. A. J. Clay, Dr. A. L. Brobeck, Dr. F. P. Johnson, Dr. C. O. Nelms and Dr. A. M. Earel, medical examiners.

---

### The Royal Neighbors

---

A large and active auxiliary of the Woodmen lodge, "The Royal Neighbors" exists in Hoopeston, and use the Woodmen lodge rooms for their meetings which are held on a regular schedule. The Royal Neighbors exert considerable of an influence on the social life not only of the lodge but of the city as well. Each year finds them with a stronger membership keeping pace with the Woodmen.

---

### THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

---

#### Hoopeston Council, No. 1,761

---

In October 1914, the Rev. Fr. Fred Gahlman, pastor of St. Anthony's Catholic church, interested a number of the members of the St. Anthony's parish in the formation of a council of the Knights of Columbus in Hoopeston. On October 7, 1914, the new organization was founded, James Boyle and A. B. Shannon, of Danville, State Deputy Brown and Edward Houlihan, of Chicago, coming to Hoopeston to aid in the organization work.



At this organization meeting Ford Bradley was selected as the first Grand Knight of the lodge, to serve for the period of one year, until October 1915, and other officers were as follows: Deputy Grand Knight, Ambrose Roark; Chancellor, John Barragree; Recorder, Walter Ernst; Financial Secretary, Clarence R. McClafflin; Treasurer, John Burdan; Lecturer, J. M. Hannell; Advocate, A. Bell; Warden, J. Sloan; Guards, Peter Balensiefer and Thomas Green; Trustees, James Barragree, James Mulcahey, Mike Stack; Chaplain, Rev. Fr. Fred Gahlman.

The new organization flourished during its first year, filling a need that had been long felt in the social life of St. Anthony's parish. Lodge rooms were located over the Parenti Confectionery, (now the H. & H. Confectionery).

On October 5, 1915, Hugh Roark, jr., was named Grand

Knight to serve the second year until October, 1916. Other officers were as follows: Deputy Grand Knight, Michael Anderson, jr., Chancellor, William Auth; Recorder, William Regan; Financial Secretary, C. R. McClafflin; Treasurer, John Burdan; Lecturer, J. M. Hannell; Advocate, Stephen Morrow; Warden, John Sloan; Guards, Peter Balensiefer and Henry Barragree; Trustees, James Mulcahey, Mike Stack and Charles Tomilson; Chaplain, Fr. Fred Gahlman.

The story of the lodge has been one of continual growth since its organization. At the end of the second administration it was in a healthy and flourishing condition and continued so during the next two administrations, 1916 and 1917, during which the following officers served:

1916—Hugh Roark, jr., Grand Knight, (re-elected); Deputy Grand Knight, Thomas Green; Chancellor, William Auth; Recorder, Ray Barragree; Financial Secretary, C. R. McClafflin; Treasurer, Arthur Bell; Lecturer, Ed. Layden; Advocate Peter T. Roark; Warden, Joe Barragree; Guards, William Murphy and Joe Green; Trustees, Mike Stack, Charles Tomilson and William Goldsberry; Fr. Fred Gahlman, chaplain.

In 1917 the outbreak of the world war came and the Hoopes-ton council, as did others throughout the nation, raised a great fund for aid and comfort of the men in camps in this country and in France and England. This fund was used to establish Knights of Columbus huts in various camps and the amount of good that was done can only be measured when the final summing up of all things earthly is effected. This fund was administered without consideration of creed, color or country and the soldier boys of all nations enjoyed their privileges in France, while in the camps of this country, soldiers of all faith and creeds gathered at the K. of C. huts for the entertainments, etc., that served to aid in whiling away the long hours away from home and in keeping up the morale of the army.

John Sloan, jr., was re-elected Grand Knight in 1918 and Charles Green, Deputy Grand Knight. Other officers were: Chancellor, John Gleason; Recorder, J. M. Hannell; Financial Secretary, Hugh Roark, jr., Treasurer, Peter Roark, jr., Lecturer, Frank Lee; Advocate, Robert Carlin; Warden, John Burdan; Guards, William Murphy and Hugh Roark, Sr.; Trustees, William Goldsberry, Henry Barragree and Peter Balensiefer.

The war ended in 1918 and the National council of the Knights of Columbus still had on its hands a great part of the fund that had been given by councils throughout the nation for war work. This fund was set aside for educational purposes and has been used to give schooling in many trades and professions, to ex-servicemen, regardless of their religious affiliations up to the present time.

The year 1919 found the lodge in new quarters in the Burton

building, to which they had removed in the latter part of 1918. George E. Harbert was the first Grand Knight to serve in the new lodge rooms, among the finest in the city and the Deputy Grand Knight was William Regan. Chancellor, Nicholas Gaston; Recorder, James Regan; Financial Secretary, Hugh Roark, jr.; Treasurer, Peter Roark jr.; Lecturer, Charles Thuot; Advocate, William Nichols; Warden, Franklin Murphy; Guards, Henry Cosgrove, Hugh Roark, Sr.; Trustee, Henry Barragree, Peter Balensiefer and William Goldsberry.

Peter Roark, jr., was elected Grand Knight at the election held October 7, 1920, and other officers were as follows: Deputy Grand Knight, Henry Cosgrove; Chancellor, J. M. Hannell; Recorder, Franklin Murphy; Financial Secretary, Hugh Roark, jr.; Treasurer, John Sloan; Lecturer, Ralph Houghton; Advocate, Ralph Houghton; Warden, Thomas Green; Guards, Joe Green and J. N. Fraley; Trustees, Peter Balensiefer, William Goldsberry and Henry Barragree.

Dr. J. M. Hannell was elected Grand Knight at the election held October 6, 1921, and it was during this year that the lodge increased their activities to include an athletic program, a basketball team being formed as follows: G. E. Harbert, manager; J. Fraley, captain; Paul Fraley, Thomas Gustin, Franklin Murphy and Pat Sheridan. A schedule of games was played, the majority of which were victories for the Knights. Enough money was made to purchase sweaters and baseball uniforms, which were used the following spring. Other officers for 1921 were: Deputy Grand Knight, Joe Green; Chancellor, William Regan; Recorder, James Regan; Financial Secretary, Hugh Roark jr.; Treasurer, John Sloan; Lecturer, George E. Harbert; Advocate, Henry Barragree; Warden, Charles Thuot; Guards, Henry Cosgrove and Peter Balensiefer.

In 1922, Fr. Fred Gahlman had the honor of serving in a double official capacity, when he was elected Grand Knight and Chaplain. Other officers were: Deputy Grand Knight, J. N. Fraley; Chancellor, J. M. Hannell; Recorder, James Regan; Financial Secretary, Hugh Roark, jr.; Treasurer, John Sloan; Lecturer, Peter Roark, jr.; Advocate, Franklin Murphy; Warden, Charles Thuot; Guards, Thomas Green and Ralph Houghton; Trustees, William Goldsberry, Peter Balensiefer and Henry Barragree.

Charles Thuot was elected to the post of Grand Knight at the election held October 6, 1923, and the following were named to serve with him: Deputy Grand Knight, Stephen Morrow; Chancellor, J. M. Hannell; Recorder, Dwayne Heffernan; Financial Secretary, Franklin Murphy; Treasurer, Lucien Archambeault; Lecturer; Joseph Schuler; Advocate, Ralph Houghton; Warden, Thomas Green; Guards, James Regan and Charles Green; Trustees, Peter Balensiefer, Henry Barragree and Charles B. Murray.

In October, 1924, John Fraley was elected Grand Knight of



the Council and Jesse Hoover was named to the position of Deputy Grand Knight. Other officers who are at present serving are as follows: Chancellor, J. Hannell; Recorder, Elmer Denman; Financial Secretary, Franklin Murphy; Treasurer, Lucien Archambeault; Lecturer, J. M. Hannell; Advocate, Claire Regan; Warden, Charles Thuot; Guards, James Regan and James Dodd; Trustees, Charles D. Murray, John Sloan and Peter Roark, jr.

In each administration since the organization of the lodge the Rev. Fr. Fred Gahlman, pastor of St. Anthony's church has served in the capacity of chaplain.

In January, 1925, the disastrous fire which partially destroyed the Town Clock and Burton building burned out the council quarters, destroying their equipment. At a recent meeting held, the council decided to rent the property of Fr. Fred Gahlman, 323 East Lincoln street, remodel the house that stands there and use this as their quarters. This will be their new home when this task, now begun, has been completed.

---

### HOOPESTON LODGE, I. O. O. F.

---

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows is another of the fraternal organizations that has been established in Hoopeston almost continuously since the founding of the city, being established here in 1872. In the month of September of that year, a charter for the lodge was granted to the following members: W. F. Rader, Sidney Teller, B. F. Stites, John Burns and H. Shaver.

In the year 1879, the lodge had grown until there were forty members on the roster and this growth has been continued at an excellent rate since that time until there are at present over a hundred members on the lists of the organization in Hoopeston. The Odd Fellows meet every Tuesday evening in their lodge rooms in the Town Clock Building.

---

### MARY HARTWELL CATHERWOOD CLUB

---

Although originally organized as a purely literary club, the Mary Hartwell Catherwood club is deserving of a place in the history of the city. It is named for and dedicated to one of Hoopeston's most illustrious residents, Mrs. Mary Hartwell Catherwood, famous novelist, who for many years was a citizen of Hoopeston. It is also deserving of a place in the history of Hoopeston for the works it has accomplished.

Organized in November, 1895, at the home of Mrs. Frances

Trego, among the charter members were: Mrs. Mary Hartwell Catherwood, Mrs. A. H. Trego, Mrs. Dale Wallace and Mrs. E. C. Griffith.

Three years after its organization the club took up a work for which it will be remembered for many years in Hoopeston, that of sponsoring the Free Public Library in Hoopeston. Although it was only a few years until a Carnegie Free Public Library had been established in Hoopeston, to the Mary Hartwell Catherwood club belongs the credit of establishment of the first free public library. They have since the establishment of the Carnegie Library been among its most loyal supporters.

The club now numbers thirty members and holds regular meetings every other Monday evening nine months of the year. Its annual banquets, since the organization of the club have been among the most exclusive and successful social functions of the city and remain so at the present time.

---

### LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE

---

Although among the youngest of Hoopeston's fraternal orders, The Moose Lodge in point of numbers is one of the strongest in the city, and each year that passes shows this membership increased and the lodge in better conditions. Regular meetings are held by the Moose in their quarters on Main street and their hall is also often the scene of social activities and dances that are among the best events of the nature held in Hoopeston.







## Commercial Activities

---

General Survey—Some Hoopeston “Booster” Points—The Chamber of Commerce—The Hoopeston National Bank—The First National Bank—Hoopeston’s Newspapers—The North Vermilion Chronicle Established by Dale Wallace and Gideon W. Seavey—The Hoopeston Herald—The Chronicle-Herald—Classified Business Directory of Hoopeston.

---

Almost from the first day of its founding, Hoopeston has enjoyed a prominent place in mercantile circles of the county and state. Its location has won for the town the right to be considered as the “trading capital” of Northern Vermilion county. Its trade territory is not confined to Vermilion county alone, however, and extends into Western Indiana for many miles and also embraces a good portion of southern Iroquois county.

The story of the growth of Hoopeston has in a large measure been the story of its mercantile establishments. Where at first one general store, a hardware store and a few “home trading centers” came into existence, now is a city containing a store for every specialized need and not only one of them but in the majority of cases several establishments that will compare favorably with those of cities of much greater size.

Some of the facts that have led to the location in this city of these solid and substantial mercantile establishments are given following.

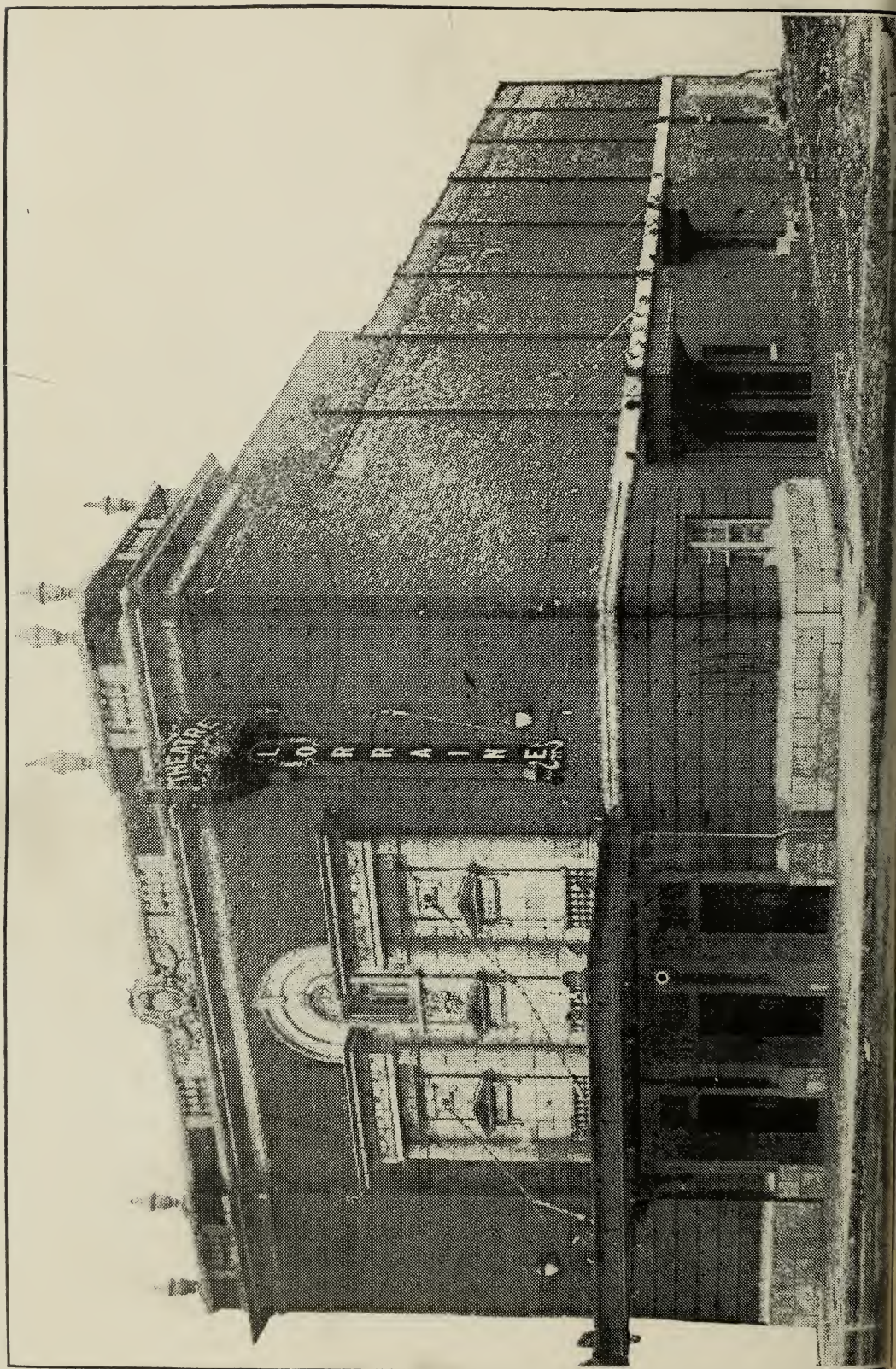
Hoopeston has more miles of paved street than any other city of its size in the world. More paving is being laid annually by the city and beautiful thoroughfares are being kept in repair, that insures their life for many years to come.

Hoopeston’s schools are second to none in the state. A high school providing several elective college courses, classed as a grade “A” institution and from which students have been admitted to Yale University, Harvard University, Princeton University and many of the other great seats of learning.

LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA







Hoopeston has the cheapest gas and electric rate of any city in the state of Illinois. It has a gas and electric plant, owned by the Central Illinois Public Service Company, which supplies light and heat to residents at a cost that is far below that of any other city in the state. It has a municipally owned waterworks which keeps the city supplied with wholesome water, that time and again has been tested and proved to be the healthiest water in the state.

Hoopeston is a city of good moral tone, it never has had a saloon in operation within the city limits, many beautiful churches with large congregations supply the religious needs of the city.

Financially the city is in first class shape. It is the only city in the country that has been known to lend money to its citizens, with which to build homes, through a Building and Loan Association.

Hoopeston is above everything else a city of beautiful homes. More residents own their own homes in Hoopeston than in any other city of its size in the nation. Beautiful residential districts stretch in every direction from the central business district and building operations for the coming year are expected to experience a boom, providing homes for many more citizens who come here to make their home.

Hoopeston has a \$100,000 motion picture theatre known as The Lorraine Theater, which was built and placed in operation in Hoopeston by E. J. Boorde. The theatre is one of the most beautiful in the state of Illinois, caters to the best class of pictures shown in the country and provides a wholesome source of amusement.

Hoopeston has the most modern equipped newspaper plant in a city of 6,000 in the state of Illinois. The paper, The Chronicle-Herald, is published daily by The Aldrich Printing & Publishing Company, which also does high-class jobwork. A weekly, summing the news of the day for the farmers is also published.

All of these factors have proved of inestimable value in the growth of the city commercially. They have provided a firm foundation upon which the merchants of Hoopeston have built trade to the value of many thousands of dollars annually.

A live Chamber of Commerce, at present one of five in the state of Illinois employing a woman secretary, Miss Bertha York, functions as the central clearing house for community activities and provides a means of pooling the interests of the commercial leaders of Hoopeston.

---

## THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

---

Hoopeston's first civic commercial organization was styled the Hoopeston Business Men's Association and for many years served the needs of the growing city, until 1919, when the need

for more unified effort became apparent. The Business Men's Association had not proved a failure, but the town had simply grown to beyond its capacity to serve. Therefore, it was determined that a Chamber of Commerce should be established and on August 5, 1919, A. M. Keller, I. E. Merritt and Ellsworth Iliff were selected as an incorporating committee and became the incorporators of "The Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce," the objects of which are:

"To promote the commercial, industrial and civil welfare of the City of Hoopeston and her surrounding district; to aid in the conservation and advancement of the business and professional interests in this community; to foster and encourage the manufacturing and agricultural development and to bring into closer union and co-operation, the entire community through membership in the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce."

The following persons were selected to control the destinies of the new incorporation for the first year: George E. Evans, treasurer; Mac C. Wallace, John F. Ost, William Moore, I. E. Merritt, Ellsworth Iliff, Ore M. Ross, W. C. Welty, E. J. Boorde, F. C. Moore, I. N. Heaton, Mark R. Koplin, Charles W. Warner, Otto Ogdon and Walter Trego.

A charter was issued by the secretary of state and the new organization was ready for business. It was determined that a paid secretary would accomplish more for the city and the commercial and industrial interests and Orren I. Bandeen was employed for the period of one year.

On December 9, 1920, a meeting of the membership body was held, the constitution and by-laws were adopted and the following board of directors elected for two years, ending December 1, 1922: G. H. Couchman, Dr. Fred E. Earel, Dr. John A. Heaton, Thomas Martin, W. A. Miskimen, L. W. Singleton; For one year, ending December 1, 1921: Dexter Crandall, George Lester, D. J. McFerren, A. W. Murray, Otto Ogdon and Walter Trego. At a special meeting held December 14, 1920, the board organized by electing the following officers: Dexter Crandall, president; G. H. Couchman, vice-president; E. E. Yates, treasurer; O. I. Bandeen, secretary.

A membership drive was staged by the new Chamber of Commerce during 1921 that resulted in a strong roster list of nearly 200 members being signed up for a period of three years.

On November 16, 1921, H. B. Zabriskie, of Patterson, New Jersey, was employed to succeed O. I. Bandeen as secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Bandeen had resigned to go to a larger city. Mr. Zabriskie served during the first six months of his term satisfactorily and had started to serve his second period of six months, when the board of directors terminated its contract with him to permit the secretary to go to another Illinois city. Paul Weber was named as the president of the Chamber



George E. Evans

To George E. Evans, president and general manager of the George E. Evans Clothing Company goes an honor at the present day that is well worthy of recording. Mr. Evans is now the "oldest merchant on Main street." By that is meant that Mr. Evans has now been in business on Main Street longer than any other business man at present located there. There are other firm names that are older than Mr. Evans' store, but not that have been personally supervised by the present owners as long. Mr. Evans has served as President of the Chamber of Commerce; has always been one of its most ardent supporters; and is one of Hoopston's most public spirited citizens of the present generation.



for the year 1922 and was serving at the time Mr. Zabriskie ended his connection. From then until April, 1923, the Chamber was without a paid monitor, when Howard N. Yates, of Fairbury, Illinois, was given a six months contract.

George E. Evans, one of the principal figures in the organization of the Chamber of Commerce and for many years one of the staunchest supporters of the civic body was elected president in December, 1922, to serve during 1923 and executed the contract with Mr. Yates as secretary.

At the conclusion of his six months service, Mr. Yates returned to Fairbury Association of Commerce, as its secretary and the Hoopeston organization was again left without a paid adviser.

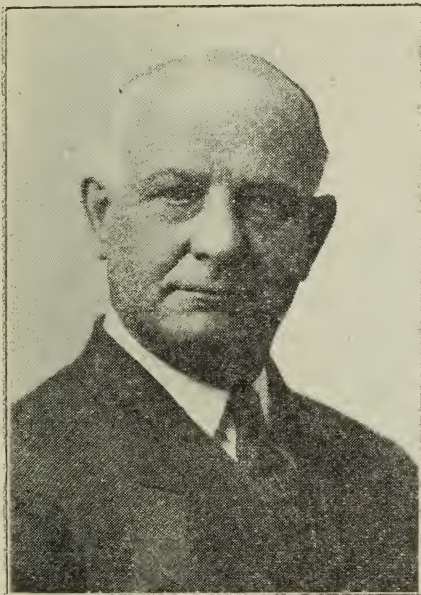
In December, 1923, G. H. Couchman was named as president of the organization to serve during the year 1924. It had been determined that the civic organization would do without the services of a paid secretary for a time in order to recuperate their finances as well as to try out a new system. In the fall of 1924 it was decided, however, that a paid secretary was a necessity to the organization, and Miss Bertha York, a native of Hoopeston was selected as its mentor and adviser.

In December, 1924, Paul E. Weber was elected to serve another term as president of the organization, due to the great strides which the civic body made during his first administration. How wise a choice this was, will be best determined at the end of the present year, 1925, with the organization in perhaps its healthiest and best condition since its establishment.



## THE HOOPESTON NATIONAL BANK

Established in June, 1909, the Hoopeston National Bank, although this city's youngest financial institution has enjoyed a steady growth in business and popularity until at the present time it is considered one of the strongest banks in this section of the state.



**I. E. Merritt**

For many years after the Hamilton & Cunningham bank had ceased to exist in Hoopeston the First National Bank was the only institution of this nature in Hoopeston.

In the year 1909 I. E. Merritt and Mark R. Koplin of Buckley, Illinois, came to Hoopeston. These two gentlemen were at that time proprietors of the State Bank at Buckley and became convinced that there was room for another sturdy financial institution. Accordingly in June, 1909, the Hoopeston National Bank was established.

In 1922, Mr. Koplin who had served as cashier of the bank for the thirteen year period up to that time, withdrew from the business removing to Memphis, Tennessee. His place as cashier of the bank was taken by L. W. Singleton, another Buckley citizen, who has with its president, Mr. Merritt, been responsible for the conduct of affairs of the institution up to the present date.

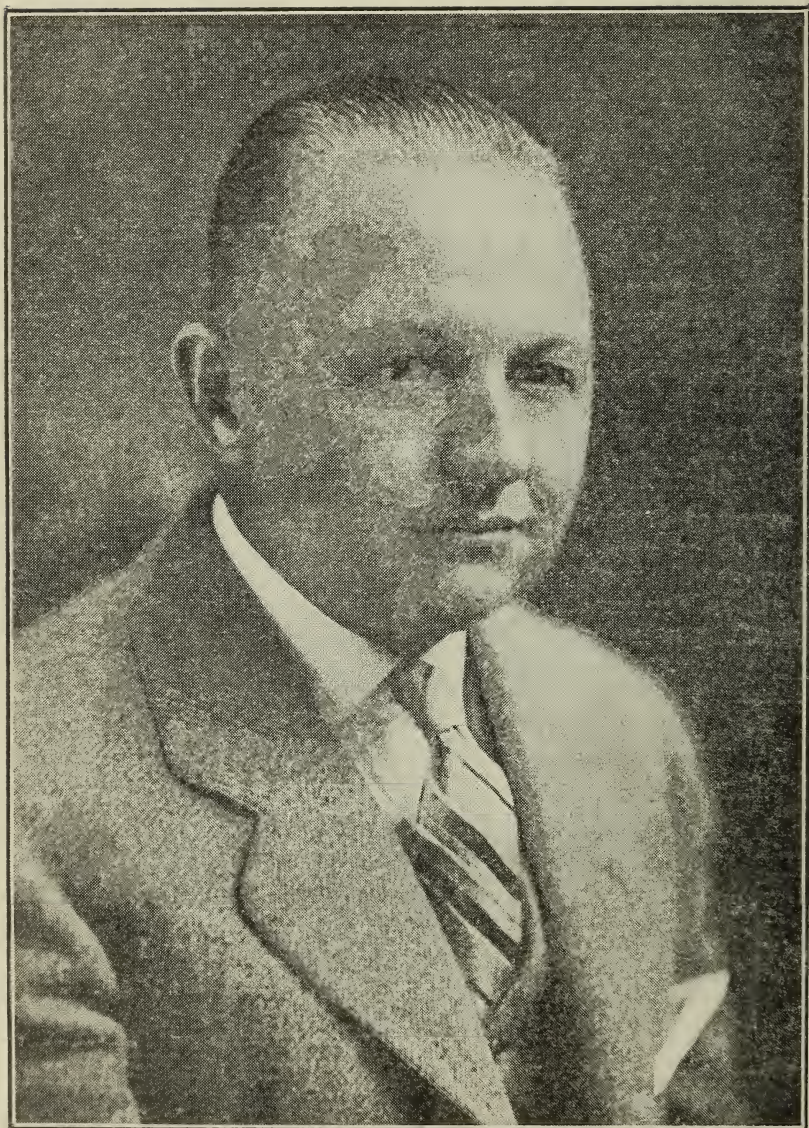
Commercial banking, foreign exchange, safe deposits vaults, savings department, travelers cheques and letters of credit are all handled by the Hoopeston National Bank which under the guidance of able officials has grown in its sixteen year history to be known throughout the state as a power in the banking world.

The Hoopeston National bank, at the close of business December 31, 1924, had assets of \$1,203,655. Its capitalization is \$100,000.

Officers of the bank at present are: Isaac E. Merritt, President; James H. Dyer, Vice-President; L. W. Singleton, Cashier; Everett E. Yates, Asst. Cashier.

Directors are: I. E. Merritt, James H. Dyer, L. W. Singleton,





William McFerren



B. R. Burton, J. A. Fickle, Tade Layden and William B. McFarland.

Courteous service to all, regardless of the size of their account or the business which they have to transact, is the unbroken rule at the Hoopeston National Bank.

---

## THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

---

Established in the year 1872, shortly after the city of Hoopeston had been incorporated, the First National Bank is not only the city's oldest financial institution, but for many years was the only business of this nature carried on in Hoopeston. The bank was established by J. S. McFerren, pioneer resident and the first mayor of Hoopeston, with a capitalization of \$25,000. It was a successful venture from the start, residents of this section reposing great confidence in the business ability of J. S. McFerren, who was named as President of the bank, an office in which he continued up to the date of his death in 1921.

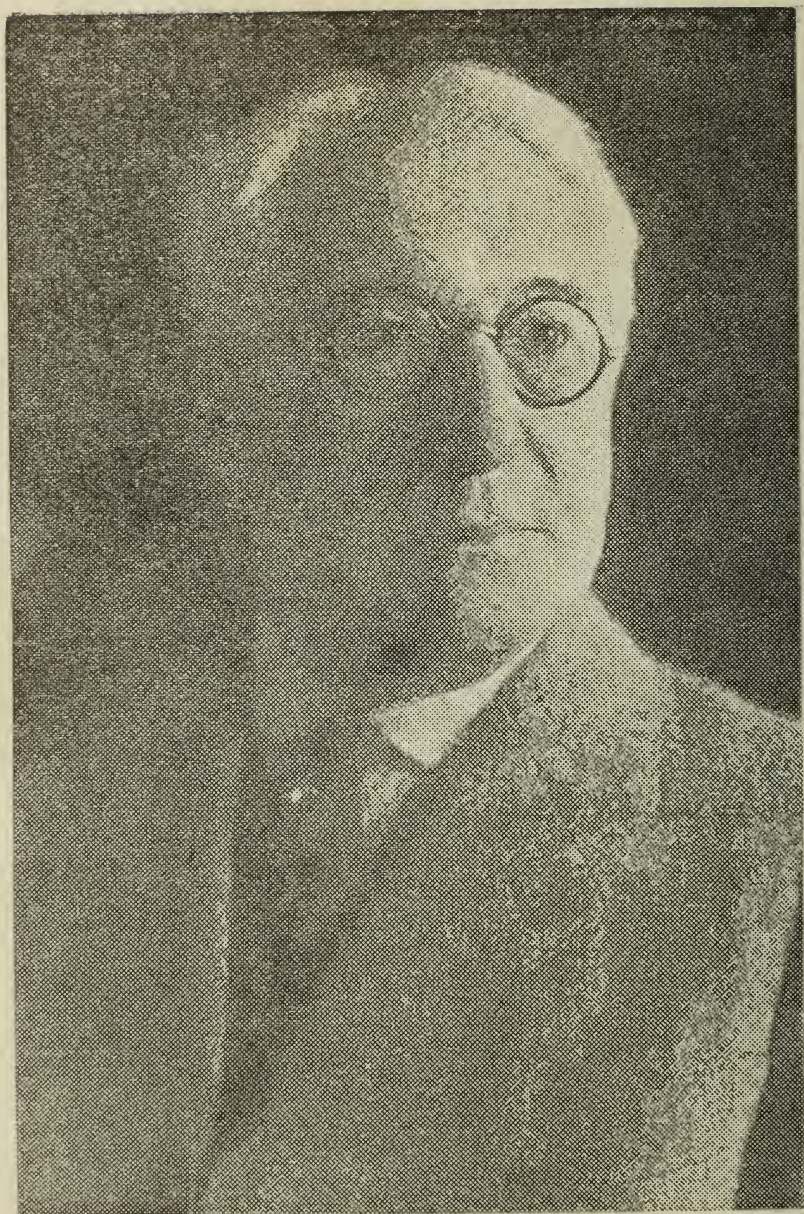
The history of the First National bank has been one of continuing growth and expansion. As the town of Hoopeston took on the form of a city, the bank's capitalization was increased, depositors flocked to its doors and today it carries on commercial banking, foreign exchange, has safe deposits vaults and savings departments, issues travelers' cheques and letters of credit and is generally regarded as one of the notably strong financial institutions of eastern Illinois.

The unwritten law of the First National bank is that every person, regardless of station, rich or poor, shall receive most cordial attention at any desk from that of the president down to the lowest subordinate and this rule, established by the late J. S. McFerren, has always been strictly adhered to.

Resources of the bank are well over the million and a quarter mark and capital stock in the institution is now \$100,000.

On the death of J. S. McFerren, his son, William McFerren, became president of the First National Bank, an office he has continued to hold with marked success up to the present day. Other officials of the bank are: D. J. McFerren, Vice-President; Roy Boughton, Cashier; J. V. Evans, Assistant Cashier and Ferne B. Davis, Assistant Cashier.

Directors are: E. F. Trego, Mac C. Wallace, William McFerren, D. J. McFerren and Roy Boughton.



"Judge" Dale Wallace



HOOPESTON'S NEWSPAPERS

---

It was the last quarter of 1871. In the circumambient atmosphere surrounding the newly-born village, situated on the east border of the Grand Prairies there was the echoing thump, thump, of the hammer and the raucous scratching of the saw, denoting extraordinary activity, in fact vigorous haste. Every man who could wield a mechanical tool was busy from daylight to dark. Scattered throughout the dense vegetable growth of this fertile region, there were small dwellings, frame storerooms and occasionally a shack of rough boards. They sprang into existence like mushrooms overnight. What was the cause? Convergence of two railroads crossing at right angles; one partly completed, the other only graded. Everybody keen to get in line for brisk commercial activities soon to follow.

A strange young man alighted from the construction train and wended his way through the resin weeds to the apartment center of the business district.

He wore store clothes, had long black hair and a general appearance and quiet demeanor. He might have been taken for a poet or a preacher. The village was scattered over hundreds and more hundreds of acres of the finest prairie land in Illinois. He sauntered, he observed, he wondered, if he had not made a mistake. True, the territory was ample, the foundation was in fact prodigious, but the superstructure was very, very meagre. What to do—what to do? Observing the strange biped, wandering around with apparently nothing in view, the curiosity of one pioneer merchant encompassed him. So he propounded this query: "Well, what do you come here to do?" A very reasonable, if slightly ungrammatical question, as everybody else was working and seemed to have some definite object in view in coming to the little hamlet while the strange man was merely marking time.

"Well, my good friend, I came here to establish a newspaper."

There were no churches, yet.

"God-da-mighty' kid, do you think it would pay in this little berg."

"That depends on you and your contemporaries. Would you take the paper?"

"Sure."

"Would you advertise your business in its columns?"

"You bet I would."

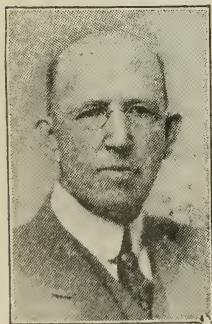
Then the clock struck twelve, for the spirit exemplified by the first client was manifested by all the others and in conjunction with Gideon W. Seavey, Dale Wallace, who was a practical and experienced member of the firm, launched the North Vermilion Chronicle in January, 1872, four months after the surveyor's stakes were driven for the planning of the town of Hoopeton.



The reason it was given the name of North Vermilion Chronicle, was because quite an element of the populace was not friendly to the name of Hoopeston, wanting something more euphonious, more aristocratic and were agitating the feasibility of changing the name. But as the two railroads crossed Thomas Hoopes' land, the companies decided to honor the veteran landlord and it was named Hoopeston.

The Chronicle plant was located in the second story of Moore and Brillhart's hardware store, corner Market street and Thompson Avenue, opposite the northwest corner of the Market street park. As the day approached for the first issue of the paper, the little village citizens became enthusiastically anxious to see what it would look like and many of the leading ones were desiring of owning the first complete copy that came from the press. To be fair to all it was agreed to offer it to the highest bidder at public auction. There was spirited bidding and it was finally sold to Dr. S. P. Thompson for the munificent sum of \$32.50—rather a high price for a single copy. But the patriotic doctor said it was worth it and still has it in his possession in his home in Crawfordsville, Indiana. The printing of the first edition on a new Washington hand press called forth some remarks from Mr. Wallace who had the job in hands, that would not be permitted in print in the columns of the family paper.

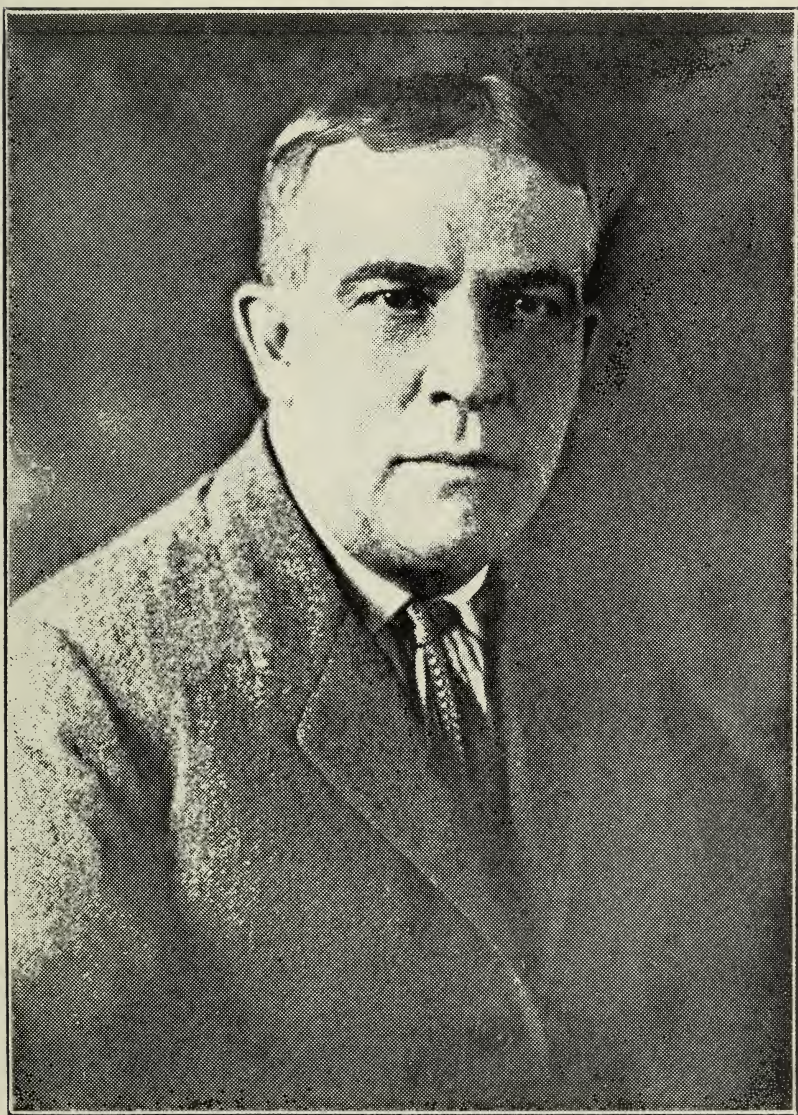
In order to have more room, the plant was removed to a building almost opposite the present site of the United Presbyterian church and later to the frame building on the site of the Worthen store. Three years later it was removed to the basement of J. S. McFerren's new First National bank building, now the home of the First National Bank. In the meantime, Mr. Wallace became sole owner of the paper, which he held until July, 1882, when he relinquished his management to Charles W. Warner. He established the Daily Chronicle in 1881.



C. W. Warner

J. M. Clark, owner of two sections of fine farming land, west of the village, removed to Hoopeston, engaged in mercantile business and later purchased a printing outfit and established the Hoopeston Herald. It was under the management of Rev. Haven M. Haff, a retired Methodist preacher, who was succeeded by Billy Spence and from then on the Herald led a precarious existence until George R. Deatrich resurrected it from an untimely decay. William

Fleming later on established the Hoopeston News, then the Arter Brothers took it over, then Charles P. Huey and it finally yielded up the ghost. But the old Chronicle weathered the storm for



**CHESTER A. ALDRICH**

**Editor and Manager of The Chronicle-Herald**

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

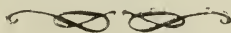


nearly fifty years. Then it got tired and wanted a rest, so crawled into a comfortable nest by the side of the virile and energetic Herald, and by the combination, Hoopeston has the best newspaper in the State of Illinois, population considered.

The Evening Herald, an offshoot of the Hoopeston Herald, was founded in 1903 by the late George R. Deatrich and was successfully published by him and his brother-in-law, S. A. Barnes and L. R. Smith. Mr. Deatrich, when again owner of the paper, died in 1909 and his wife and daughter, Miss Natalie Deatrich, became the publishers. In 1910 they sold the Evening Herald to Cole Brothers, of Chicago, who six months later disposed of their interests to Chester A. Aldrich who came here from Mattoon, Illinois. The latter has been owner and publisher of the paper since then with the exception of about five months, when A. P. Spencer, now located at Highland, Illinois, was owner and publisher. On March 1, 1913, Mr. Aldrich again took over the ownership and on April 15, 1921, bought the interests of Charles W. Warner and the Hoopeston Daily and Weekly Chronicle. Mr. Aldrich consolidated the papers under the name of The Chronicle-Herald, daily and weekly.

In August, 1921, a stock company was organized with a capitalization of \$40,000, which took over the ownership of the combined publications and printing plant under the corporate name of the Aldrich Printing and Publishing Company, Incorporated. The officers of the company are: Chester A. Aldrich, President, who is also editor and general manager, Mac C. Wallace, Vice-President; Daisy B. McIntyre, secretary-treasurer. The stockholders include some of the leading citizens and business men of Hoopeston.

In September, 1924, H. J. Harris, of Otterbein, Indiana, came to Hoopeston and organized the Hoopeston Evening Times. In February, 1925, this paper was incorporated under the name of the Hoopeston Evening Times Publishing Company.



## Business Directory

### Attorneys

Charles A. Allen, 501 Willdon Building.

Couchman & Couchman, 504-5-6 Willdon Building.

Dyer & Dyer, 408 Willdon Building.

Robert R. Rodman, 517-18-19 Willdon Building.

Charles E. Russell, 203 1-2 East Main street.

### Automobiles

Hoopeston Motor Sales Co., 316 East Main street.

Kimberlin Transfer, 112-14 West Main.

William McFerren & Co., 21-25 East Main.

Ransom & Sims, 319 East Main.

Vermilion Auto Company, Merritt Building.

James Murray & Sons, 214 West Main.

S. & W. Chevrolet Company, North Market street.

### Bakeries

Ideal Bakery, 102 North Market.

Lyons Bakery, 204 North Market.

### Banks

First National Bank, East Main.

Hoopeston National Bank, East Main.

### Barbers

Ray Jaynes, 103 South Market.

D. A. Smith, Basement 204 South Market.

J. W. Marlatt, East Main.

D. C. Worley, Basement 115 East Main.

E. J. Keister, Basement 209 East Main.

Isaac T. Manuel, East Main.

Rice & Rice, East Main.

### Battery Service

Webber's Battery Service, 112 East Main.

William McFerren & Company, Exide Service, 301 East Main.

Willard Battery Service, 221 North Market.

### Beauty Shops

Mrs. L. R. Miller, 415 Willdon building.

Mrs. Jesse Bell, First National Bank Building.

### Chemists

T. C. Watters, 511 Willdon Building.

### Chiropractics

Bash & Bash, 509-10 Willdon building.

### Clothing & Shoes

Frank F. Dornfeld & Co., 207 East Main.

George E. Evans Co., 228 East Main.

P. Larson Company, 223 East Main.

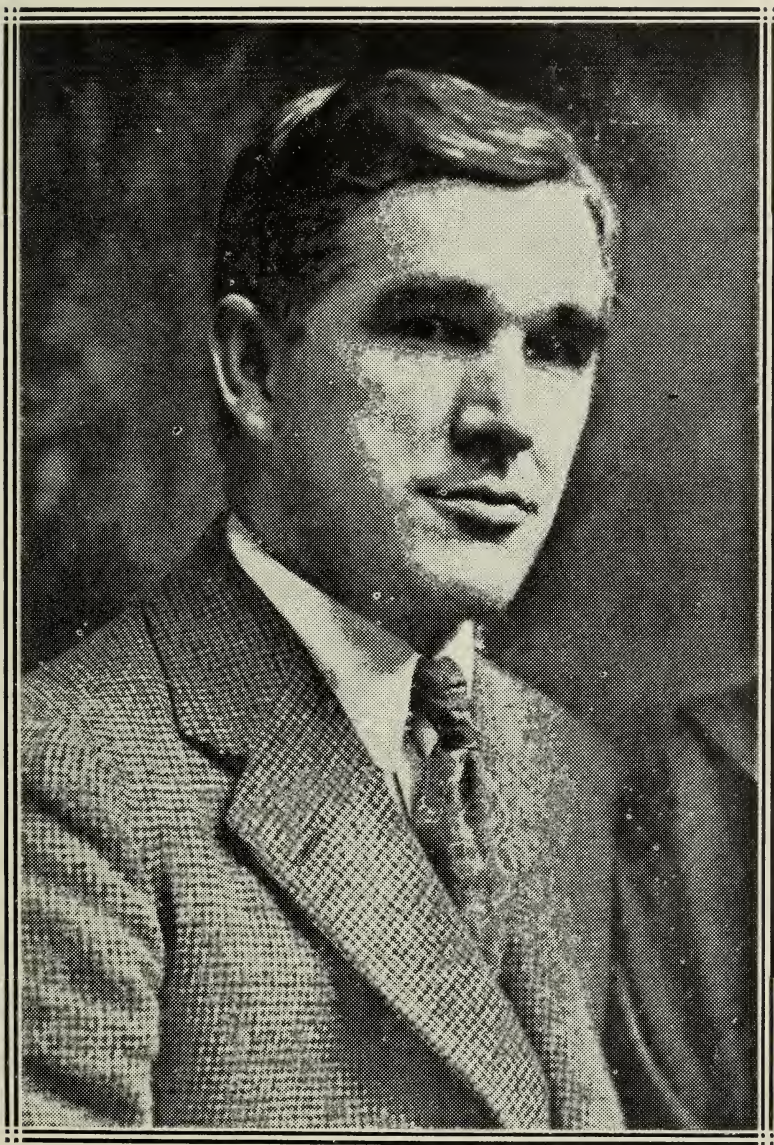
William Glover, 210 East Main.

The Empire Shoe Store, East Main street.

### Confectioneries

Illinois Sugar Bowl, 215 East Main Street.

H. & H. Confectionery, 225 East Main.



**ROBERT R. RODMAN**

**Attorney-at-Law**



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
CHICAGO

**Contractors**

N. H. Stokes, 910 West Washington street.

Thomas P. Smith, East Main street.

Albert Warner, 623 Thompson Avenue.

William Johnson, (masonry) 313 North Market.

William Sargent, Dice Addition.

N. E. Weaver, (masonry) 861 East Maple street.

**Creamery**

Hoopeston Creamery Company, 219 South Market.

**Dentists**

Dr. J. M. Hannell, 202 1-2 East Main street.



**Dr. J. M. Hannell**

Dr. John A. Heaton, First National Bank Bldg.

Dr. Leo F. Rank, 307 1-2 East Main street.

Dr. J. H. Robinson, 301 Willdon Building.

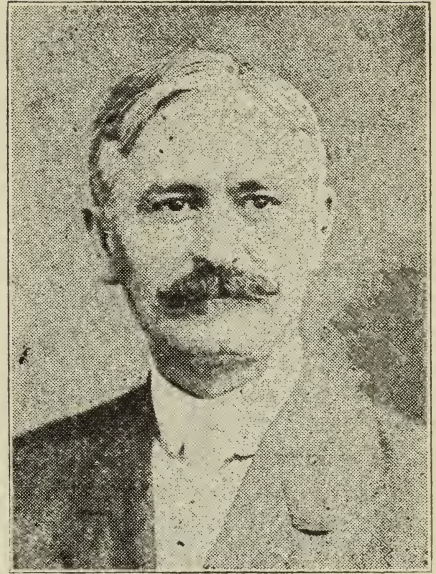
**Druggists**

Elliott Brothers, 226 East Main.

Hipke & Weber, The Rexall Store, 221 East Main.

G. E. Lester, 220 East Main.

McAllister Pharmacy, 105 East Main.

**Dry Goods Stores**

**John F. Ost**

Hoopeston Department Store, 210 South Market.

Ogdon's Dry Goods Company, 224 East Main.

Worthen's Dry Goods Company, 203 East Main.



**B. R. Burton**

Burton Dry Goods Company, 202-4 East Main.

### Feed Barns

O'Malley's Feed Store, 226 South Bank street.  
Musk Feed Barn, 201 First Avenue.

### Filling Stations

Dixie Oil & Gas Company, 1029 West Main.  
Standard Oil Company, West Main.  
Roxanna Service Station, West Main street.  
Johnson Oil Co., East Main.

### Florists

E. A. Raasch & Sons, 301 West Main.  
Joseph Schuler, Dice Addition.

### Fire-Fighting Equipment

Charles L. Beeman, East Washington street.  
Dall Milburn, South Fifth Street.

### Fruit & Vegetables

Ogdon's Quality Market, 215 South Market.

### Fuel, Lumber and Grain

Hoopeston Grain & Coal Company, yards at North Elevator, 427 Front street.  
Illinois Lumber, Grain & Coal Company, West Penn.  
McGill Coal Company, 103 East Lincoln.  
Hott-Miller Lumber & Coal Company.

### Groceries

A. & P., East Main.  
J. H. Boothe, 101 East Main.  
Passons' Grocery, 601 East Lincoln street.  
Great American, East Main.  
People's Grocery, 312 East Main.  
O. E. Randolph, 305 East Main.

S. E. Shaw, 419 McCracken Avenue.

North Side Grocery, 202 North Market.

J. T. Ogdon & Company, 313 South Second Avenue.

M. L. Slauter, 601 South Second Avenue.

Wilson Bros., East Main.

The Fidelity Store, East Main.

H. C. Green Store, 516 East Young Avenue.

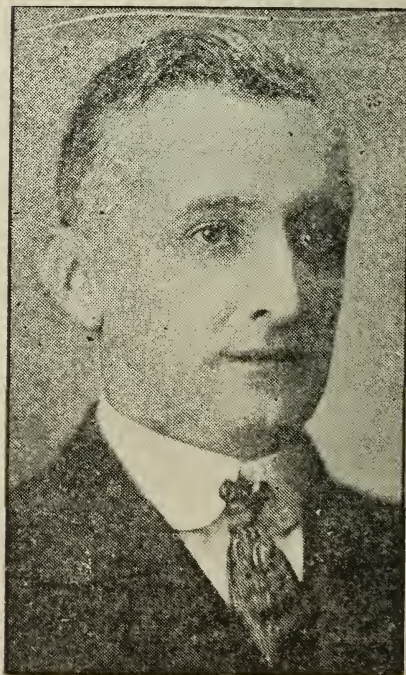
J. D. Kivell, West Main street.

Martin's Grocery, West Main.

Keister's Store, West Penn.

### Hardware

Luther E. Alkire, 229 East Main.



Luther E. Alkire



A. H. Campbell Company,  
Bank street.

Nelson & Fenwick, Main  
street.

### Hotels

Cunningham Hotel, 102 East  
Main.

Hoopeston Hotel, 115 East  
Main.

Waverly House, East Penn.

### Ice

Hoopeston Ice & Cold Stor-  
age Company.

### Insurance & Real Estate

Mac C. Wallace, First Na-  
tional Bank Building.

Dr. John A. Heaton, East  
Main, Chicago National Life.

Mrs. O. W. Heaton, East  
Main, Federal Life.

John Guingrich, East Main.

George W. Duley, First Na-  
tional Bank Building.

Douglas G. Gilman, 203½  
East Main.

Clarence Lee, First National  
Bank Building.

E. H. Richcreek, 108 North  
Market.

Thomas Green, 404 Willdon.

Heaton Bros., Fourth Floor,  
Willdon Building.

### Jewelers

Elliotts' Jewelry Store, 309  
East Main.

John Petry Jewelry Store,  
214 East Main.

### Laundry

Hand Laundry, 213½ East  
Main street.

Park Steam Laundry, 201  
North Market.

### Loans and Savings

North Vermilion Loan &

Savings Association, 301 East  
Main.

### Meat Markets

J. J. Long, 217 South Mar-  
ket.

Ogdon's Quality Market, 215  
South Market.

J. T. Ogdon Co., 313 Second  
Avenue.

Swisher & Hanner, 105 West  
Main.

### Milliners

Burton Dry Goods Store.

Empire Shoe Store.

Hoopeston Department Store

Mrs. M. H. Seavey.

Worthen Dry Goods Com-  
pany.

### Monuments

Hoopeston Granite & Mar-  
ble Works, 115 East Penn.

### Osteopath

Dr. Payson W. Hoyt, 312  
Willdon Building.

### Photographers

Johnson's Studio, 225½ So.  
Market Street.

Lacy's' Studio, 219½ East  
Main street.

### Plumbing & Heating

Carl Anderson, 104 South  
Market.

Frank R. Jarrell, 304-10 East  
Seminary Avenue.

A .W. Murray, 219 South  
Market.

Nelson & Fenwick, 218 East  
Main street.

### Poultry

Lyons' Poultry House.

### Printing

Aldrich Printing & Publish-  
ing Company, 201 East Main.

Knox Printing Company, 209  
South Market.

The Times Publishing Com-  
pany, East Main street.

### Physicians

Dr. A. L. Brobeck, 307½ East Main.

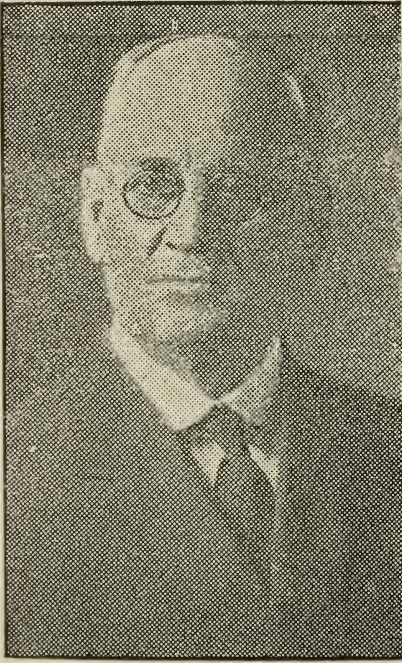
Dr. A. M. Earel, 507-508 Willdon Building.

Dr. A. J. Clay, 309 Willdon Building.

Dr. Fred E. Earel, 202½ East Main (Kline & Earel).

Dr. Ross E. Elvidge, 401 Willdon Building.

Dr. F. P. Johnson, 301½ East Main street.



**Dr. F. P. Johnson**

Dr. Leroy Jones, 306 Willdon Building.

Dr. R. G. Kline, 202½ East Main (Kline & Earel.)

Dr. J. C. Moore, 404 Willdon Building.

Dr. C. O. Nelms, 306 Willdon Building.

Dr. L. B. Russell, 230½ East Main street.

### Restaurants

J. H. Jones, East Main.

White Kitchen, East Main.

Warff Restaurant, East Main  
Cottage Inn, opposite Union Station.

### Shoe Repairing

Denman's Shoe Repair Shop,  
221 South Market street.

### Taxi Service

Bvrd Taxi and Garage, 105 Bank street.

Kimperlin's Transfer, 112-pany, 112 West Main.

### Theaters

The Lorraine Theater.

The McFerren Opera House.

### Tire Shop

Earl Musson, 103 North Market street.

The Tire Company of Illinois, North Market street.

### Transfers

The Holmes Transfer & Storage Company, 225 First Avenue.

Kimberlin's Transfer, 112-114 West Main street.

### Undertakers

P. G. Osborne, 212 East Main street.

Parker & Scott, 208 East street.

Harry H. Hamilton, 222 East Main.

### Vanite Shoppe

The Vanite Shoppe, 225 So. Market.

### Variety Stores

Rusk Variety Store, East Main street.

The Mutual Five & Ten Cent Store, 217 East Main.

Conkey's Variety Store, East Main street.





# Industrial Hoopeston

---

The Illinois Canning Company—Hoopeston Canning Company—  
Sprague-Sells Canning Machinery Corporation—Vermilion  
Malleable Iron Company—American Can Company—Iliff-  
Bruff Chemical Company—Hoopeston Ice & Cold Storage  
Company—P. H. Webber Company—A. W. Murray Company  
—Hoopeston Telephone Company—C. I. P. S. Company—C.  
& E. I. Railway—Nickle Plate Railroad—General Review of  
Minor Industries.

---

It is the good fortune of few towns that number as small a population as Hoopeston to have as many worthwhile industrial enterprises as this city. Situated in the heart of the greatest and richest corn growing belt in the world, it is only natural that these industrial enterprises should in a large measure center around the canning industry and the making of machinery for that industry. That this is the case is proved conclusively by the fact that there are four great factories in Hoopeston, allied with the canning industry—The Illinois Canning Company, The Hoopeston Canning Company, The Sprague-Sells Canning Machinery Corporation Factory and a branch of the American Can Company.

While industry necessarily centers around these concerns, at the same time there are other and more diversified industrial efforts that aid in keeping the balance in the city and that keep the unemployment problem at a minimum the year around. Included among the major industries of this nature are The Vermilion Malleable Iron Company, The Iliff-Bruff Chemical Company, The P. H. Webber Company, The Hoopeston Ice & Cold Storage Company, The A. W. Murray Company, The Central Illinois Public Service Company and The Hoopeston Telephone Company.

Two great railroad lines pass through Hoopeston, The Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad and the Nickle Plate Railroad. These two carriers provide ample facilities for the transporta-

tion of Hoopeston's industrial products to the markets of the world. Each of these industries is taken up in the following pages and covered as fully as is possible in order that a greater appreciation of their magnitude may be had, not only by citizens of Hoopeston, but by residents of other cities to whom such knowledge may prove essential.

---

## THE ILLINOIS CANNING COMPANY

---

The first business enterprise of any magnitude to be established in Hoopeston was the canning plant by S. S. McCall in the year 1875, two years before Hoopeston was incorporated as a city. From a primitive venture this factory has been brought to one of the greatest concerns of its kind in the country, today canning over a million cans of beans and corn annually.

Stephen S. McCall was a New York man and came west on a prospecting trip for a site in which to locate a canning factory. Arriving in Hoopeston he became much enthused over the prospect for the establishment of such a factory in this city. The old building that had been used as headquarters for the Snell, Taylor & Mix Construction Company was taken over and converted into a factory and operations started. The venture proved a success from the first and grew by leaps and bounds until it was soon commanding attention in its field.

In the year 1877, the business venture was incorporated under the name of the Illinois Canning Company, Inc., in the State of Illinois, and this name has remained unchanged to the present day, although the business has passed from the hands of the original founders.

In the period between the year 1878, when the business was incorporated, and the year 1902, William Moore and James A. Cunningham, two of Hoopeston's pioneer citizens and who had been interested in the company from its beginning here, acquired the controlling interest. Of later years, the control of the company passed from these citizens to the following officials and directors, who guide its destinies at the present day:

N. S. Cutright, Peoria, Illinois, President; Isaac Miller Hamilton, Vice-President, Chicago, Illinois; W. A. Miskimen, Secretary and Office Manager; R. R. Zook, Farm Manager and Assistant Office Manager; S. B. Cutright, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. Executive Committee, W. A. Miskimen, R. R. Zook, S. B. Cutright and E. M. Webster.

Much of the product of the Illinois Canning Company that is canned annually, is grown under the direct supervision of its experts. Thousands of acres of land are owned or leased from year to year in the immediate vicinity of this city by the Com-

pany to insure a standard grade of corn and beans coming to the factory during the pack season.

Although the company has enjoyed a steady and continual growth during the years from the date of its founding to the present day, perhaps the greatest improvement to come at any time took place during the first six months of 1925, when following out a program of building and improvement, decided upon several seasons before, and for which they had been quietly preparing, the company increased their warehouse facilities here by some 200,000 cases as well as affecting a much better arrangement of their factory and farm facilities.

Included in this improvement was the locating of all farming equipment at the Brigg's place, a 20-acre tract at Orange street and South Second Avenue. A storage implement house, 40x200 feet; a feed barn 60x225 feet; a stock barn 74x250 feet were built on this tract, which was surrounded with a seven foot chain link fence, with one main entrance gate on Orange street. A locker room and bunkhouse, also included in the improvement, were built just inside of the gate.

This improvement left available the huge building on the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad, extending from Washington to Lincoln street for storage purposes and as a loading warehouse from which the product of the Illinois Canning Factory can now be loaded direct to waiting freight cars on this railroad, for shipment to the markets of the world.

Purity and quality of the goods canned by The Illinois Canning Company have been maintained with a faithfulness and conscientious fidelity to their reputation that has brought praise from all parts of the nation. The steady growth of the business, one of the most important of this city's industries, is the only testimonial needed to prove that quality.

---

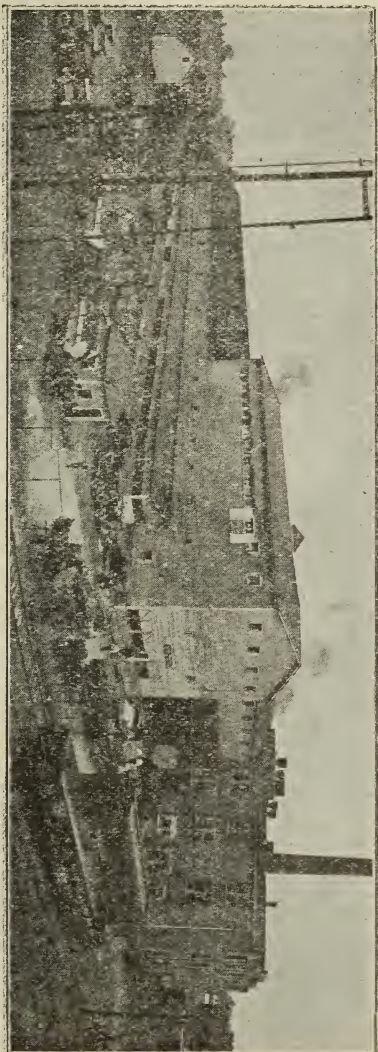
## THE HOOPESTON CANNING COMPANY

---

Three of Hoopeston's pioneer citizens, J. S. McFerren, A. H. Trego and A. T. Catherwood, in the year 1878, established The Hoopeston Canning Company, which was to prosper and grow almost from the day of its establishment to its present position as one of the largest and most important of Hoopeston's major industries.

Upon the death of Mr. Catherwood in 1892, the two surviving members of the firm assumed the entire interests of the big industry and their heirs are the present owners and operators. Five years after the death of Mr. Catherwood, in 1897, J. R. Cuykendall, the efficient processor of the firm up to that time be-





*The Hopston Canning Company*

came a junior partner and he remains today affiliated with The Hoopeston Canning Company.

Although established in 1878, it was not until 1911 that it was found necessary for The Hoopeston Canning Company to incorporate. Growth of the business in that year, however, made this step advisable and the industry was incorporated under the name of The Hoopeston Canning Company, and is at the present time known throughout the world under that name.

A. H. Trego was the power behind the throne that managed the interests of The Hoopeston Canning Company and brought it to a position where it commanded attention of the leaders in the canning field of the nation. As the burden of his years became greater, A. H. Trego relinquished the major portion of these duties to his son, Edward F. Trego and upon the death of the father, Edward F., became the president of the company. How well he has conserved and multiplied the interests left in his hands by the company when his father relinquished his earthly duties, is testified to by the fact that The Hoopeston Canning Company today is in its best condition since its organization in 1878.

Associated with Edward F. in the active management of affairs of the company are his two brothers, Walter Trego, a director of the Company and head of the office staff; and Gilbert Trego, Field Manager. The Hoopeston Canning Company grows by far the major portion of its products, owning or leasing thousands of acres of land surrounding Hoopeston for this purpose. It is the charge of these that falls to the duty of Gilbert Trego.

One of the greatest honors to ever come to a Hoopeston citizen was given Edward F. Trego, head of The Hoopeston Canning Company, when at the Cincinnati Convention of Cannerymen, held in February, 1925, he was elected President of the National Cannerymen's Association. Previous to that time he had served as a vice-president of the national organization and was regarded as in line for the position, which carries with it vast responsibility and a multitude of duties. The choice of Edward F. Trego, as President of the National Cannerymen's Association, however, met with the approval of cannerymen throughout the nation, many of whom have expressed themselves as confident that the industry during the year 1925 was to exceed all previous records and the association prosper correspondingly under his leadership. The first half of the year has borne out that prophecy.

The Hoopeston Canning Company in the years since its organization has grown to many times the initial size of the venture established in 1878. Improvement has followed improvement until the huge factory buildings today cover a great space. Each improvement has been made with an eye to increasing the general efficiency of the industry as a whole in a manner that commands

the admiration of all who visit the factory. Its output for the 1924 season was 275,000 cases.

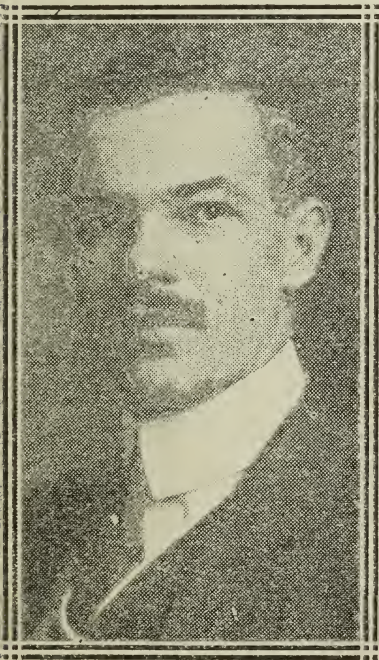
Following are the present officials and directors: President and Manager, Edward F. Trego; Vice-President, D. J. McFerren; Secretary and Treasurer, Walter Trego; Field Manager, Gilbert Trego. Directors: E. F. Trego, J. R. Cuykendall, William McFerren, D. J. McFerren and Walter Trego.

---

## THE SPRAGUE-SELLS CORPORATION

---

This industry is another of those that center around the canning industry of the nation and in size and degree of proportion among the leaders, not only in Hoopeston, but in the entire United States.



Ogden S. Sells

Organized and established in Hoopeston in the year 1898, by Daniel G. Trench, the Sprague Canning Machinery Company for many years was one of Hoopeston's major industries that commanded nation-wide attention. In his lifetime Daniel G. Trench accomplished things big in the development and manufacture of canning equipment of various kinds and was a dominant factor in the business that was known here as the Sprague Canning Machinery Company.

In the year 1923 and the month of October came the announcement of the organization of the Sprague-Sells Corporation, a joining of the names of two of the largest and most widely known canning machinery manufacturers in the country, an event that was to mean much to industrial Hoopeston.

The assets of the Sprague Canning Machinery Company were taken over by the Sprague-Sells Corporation at that time and Ogden S. Sells, President and General Manager came to Hoopeston to make his home. The Peerless Husker Company, of Buffalo, New York, owned and operated by the Sells interests up to this time, continues to function as a separate plant of the corporation, although general sales



offices for both the Peerless Husker Company and the Sprague-Sells Canning Machinery Company were combined at Chicago. The contact between the two firms is through the advertising, sales and service work, although with the control of both centered in the Sells brothers, Ogden S., Millar W., and Neal S., the closest co-operation has been effected.

The general sales offices of the Sprague-Sells Corporation are located in Hoopeston under the direct supervision of the President, Ogden S. Sells.

With the taking over of the Sprague Canning Machinery Company by The Sprague-Sells Canning Machinery Corporation and its continuance under that name, signs of increased activity at the plant in Hoopeston soon became apparent.

In the two years intervening since the merger, the business of the corporation has been greatly increased. Recognized as among the most progressive in the nation at the time of the consolidation, the Sprague-Sells Corporation today is conceded to be the leader in the making of canning machinery in the nation.

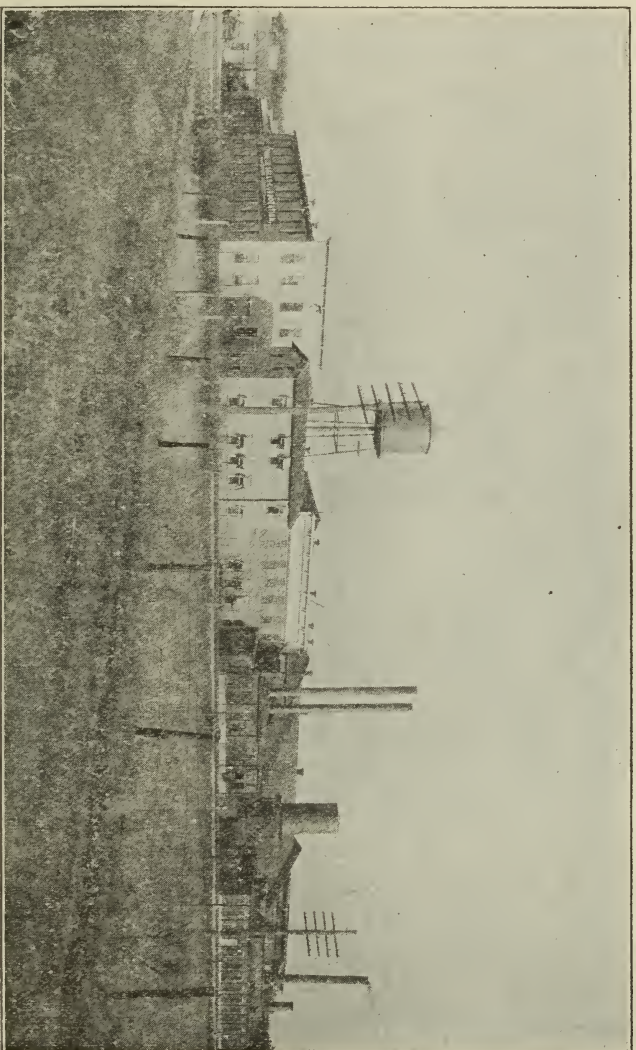
A significant fact that cannot be overlooked and that will give some idea of the size of the industry is that the payroll in Hoopeston averages better than \$2,000 per day. Two hundred and sixty men and five women are employed at the present time, the greatest number in the history of the industry here.

At the national convention of canners held at Cincinnati, Ohio, in February, 1925, The Sprague-Sells Corporation and the Peerless Husker Company had the largest exhibit of machinery of any company in the nation. Not only was their exhibit the largest, but it included more new types of machines developed and marks of progress in the canning machinery field than any other exhibit. Included among these were six machines entirely new to the trade.

The six new machines developed at the factory during the past year are the Sprague-Sells Elevator Boot; the Sprague-Sells Glass Type Pea Washer No. 2; the Sprague-Sells Wood Roll Inspection Table or Conveyor; the Sprague-Sells Chainless Inspection Table; the Smith Continuous Agitating Cooker and Cooler, and the Gardner Syrupe and Drainer.

The Smith Continuous Agitating Cooker and Cooler is a re-vamping of the past cooker ideas of this Company employing the round boiler shell body which is so successful as a distributor and container of heat and permits a great rigidity of construction. Its high end discharge allows a very heavy body of water to be carried for water cooking and a very large body of water carried for cooling.

The Gardner Syrupe and Drainer represents about the last word in development of fruit handling machinery for the fancy fruit packer. The Drainer travels the can practically around a complete circle in an inverted position, allowing all the water to



The Sprague-Sells Canning Machinery Corporation

drain off the fruit so that the cut-out degree of the syrup will be the same as when introduced. Their quick acting, non-bruising valve will handle Bartlett pears, which are perhaps, the tenderest of all fruits that require syruiping.

The Sprague-Sells Pea Washer No. 2 is constructed along the general principles of the No. 1 Pea Washer, only the pan is wider and the machine has greater capacity. It is supplied with three screens of different perforations so that when operating same the screens can be changed very quickly for the various sizes of peas being run over the same. All that it is necessary to do to change the screen is to catch hold of two handles, push the screen to one side and lift it out of the oscillating frame, replacing the new screen in the same manner. This can be done almost instantly.

The Sprague-Sells Elevator Boot is something entirely different from any type of boot put out before. It is small and compact, and has an arrangement of pockets that will not crush the peas.

The Wood Roller Inspection Conveyor is built along the general lines of the company's iron roll table of 1924, with the exception that a 4 1-2 inch diameter wood roll is used. This gives a greater spacing between the center of the rolls, which is an advantage in turning large tomatoes, or other products of large diameter.

The Sprague-Sells Improved Pulper is the result of a few machines sent out experimentally last year. It embodies the good points of the Sprague-Lowe Pulper in addition to other advantages, particularly the fact that the screen forms a complete cylinder. This gives one the benefit of the paddles on the inside.

The Chainless Inspection Table is a development of the last two or three years, but was shown at Cincinnati for the first time. It consists of a large number of wooden flights resting on cams, all of which are fastened to two horizontal shafts. This arrangement gives the flights a wave motion and turn over any product on the table, making it very easy to inspect.

Older models of the company on which fundamental improvements have been made were the Giant Mixer, the Six Cylinder Corn Cooker Filler, the Picking Table, the Lowe Type Finisher, the M. & S. Gallon Filler, and the Peerless Corn Cutter.

The Peerless Corn Cutter has been redesigned so as to drive from a line-shaft parallel with the length of the building or cutter room; its length reduced and the machine generally refined and made even more compact than in the past. It is perhaps the closest built piece of canning machinery as yet developed for the operation of a canner in which might be called preparatory work, as the closeness of the workmanship together with the fineness of the finish has called forth many compliments from everyone who has seen the machine.



The Sprague-Sells Giant Mixer has the added improvements this year of a double brine tank of larger capacity, the drive of larger capacity, the drive bracket lowered to make the drive pulley more accessible, the steam pipes brought in at the side of the mixer below the corn line.

The Sprague-Sells Picking Table this year is put out with a friction clutch pulley and a metal discharge hopper, in addition to some minor changes in its construction.

The Sprague-Sells Finisher (Lowe Type) has a major improvement in the screen. This is an all metal screen with a margin around the edges where the break comes, which results in doubling its life. An additional improvement is in the method of holding the screen and the residue discharge.

The Sprague-Sells Gallon Filler is now equipped with a non-can-no fill attachment.

Other machinery that is made by the Sprague-Sells and Peerless Husker Co., include the Sprague-Sells Model No. 5 Cutter, Sprague-Sells Slim Knife Grinder, Sprague-Sells No. 7 Silker, Sprague-Sells Cuykendall Mixer, Sprague-Sells Glass Type No. 1 Washer, Sprague-Sells Conveyor (glass type), Sprague-Sells Blancher, the Sprague-Sells No. 1 Incline Scalding, Sprague-Sells Corer (Morgan Type), Sprague-Sells Hand Pack Filler, the Sprague-Sells Pumpkin Cutter (Geneva Type), Sprague-Sells Coil (Lowe Type), Sprague-Sells Sanitary Can Washer, Sprague-Sells Filler (Schmidt Type), Sprague-Sells Cleaner (Whitehead Type), Sprague-Sells Brine Tank with Stirrer and Coil, Sprague-Sells Pea Washer (Olney Type), Sprague-Sells Aero Washer, Sprague-Sells Corn Pump (Viking Type), Peerless Husker, Peerless Rehusker, Peerless Corn Washer, Peerless Tomato Washer, Peerless six-valve Pulp Filler, Peerless Twelve-Syrup, Peerless Exhauster, Peerless Corn Trimmer, Peerless Resilker, and the following models; Sprague-Sells Corn Silk Brusher, the Sprague-Sells 8-disc Exhaust and the Sprague Sells Cleaner (Gibson Type).

---

No attempt to give the history of the Sprague-Sells Corporation or of the Sprague Canning Machinery Company could be complete without especial mention of the name of Thomas Martin, now Superintendent of the factory of the Sprague-Sells Corporation in Hoopeston. In the interim between the time of the death of Daniel G. Trench and the merger effected in 1923, Mr. Martin was the head of the Sprague Company in Hoopeston, a task he filled with a success far beyond the average. With the effecting of the consolidation he was retained by the Sprague-Sells Corporation in the present position of responsibility he holds, which in itself is a testimonial to his knowledge of the business.

## THE VERMILION MALLEABLE IRON COMPANY

---

The Vermilion Malleable Iron Company is one of the five industries which are classified in the major division of those operating in this city. This business was first organized under the name of the Hoopeston Malleable Foundry Company, and was financed by local capital, in the year 1907. At that time there was built a foundry building and an annealing plant. These two buildings yet remain and form the nucleus of the present plant.

The original company failed at the time of the panic of 1903 and the plant lay idle for some years, until it was purchased by the present owners.

In the fall of 1912, the plant came to the notice of Chicago capitalists, who shortly thereafter purchased the property from the receivers of the previous bankrupt organization. At that time the plant had been laying idle for two years or more and consisted only of the two original buildings and the brick building which is still used by the present company as a general office.

The present company, known as the Vermilion Malleable Iron Company, was then incorporated and formed with Mr. Fred A. Poor, of Chicago, as President. The same organization still operates the foundry business, although the plant has more than doubled in the capacity of output during the past ten years.

The productive capacity of the company has been increased from 2,500 tons to a present output of 5,000 to 6,000 tons per year. During the last ten years the number of employees has been more than double over the number of persons employed by the original company. The payroll of the company averages better than \$1,000 per day.

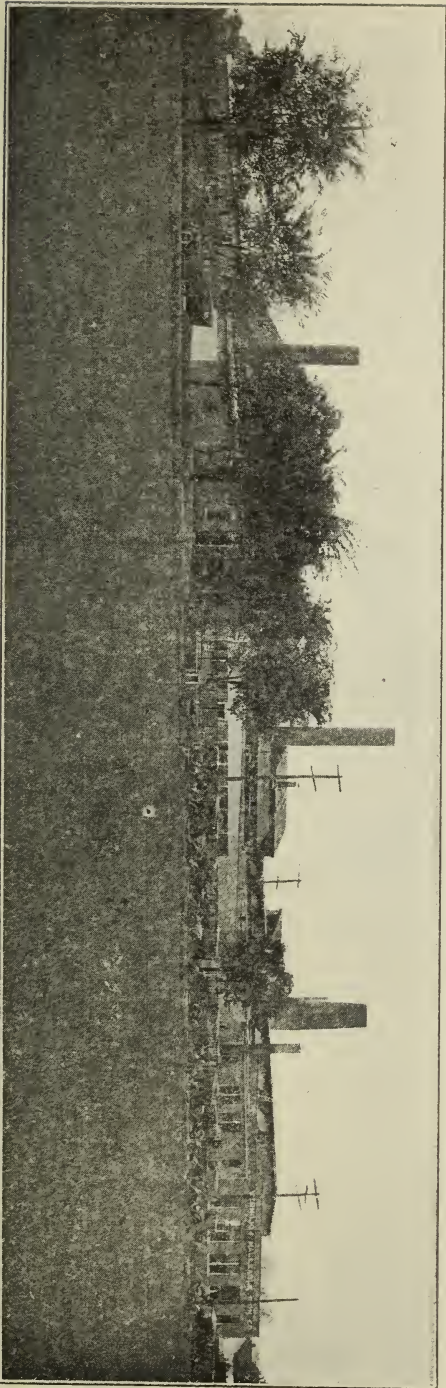
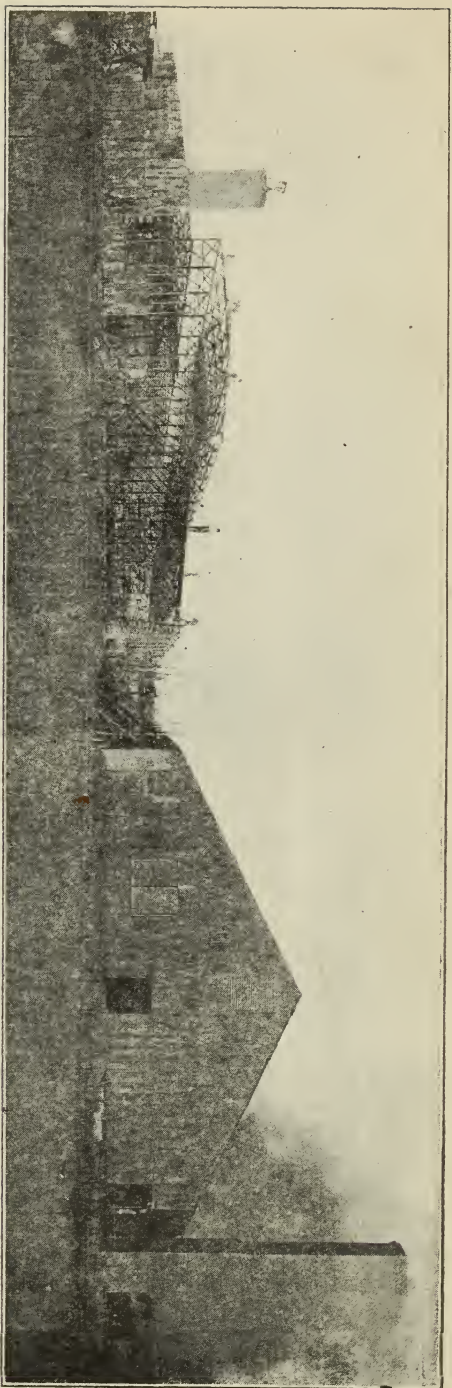
During the past year, (1924) many improvements have been made in the factory and plant as a whole. While these have not been of the revolutionary or sensational type, they have greatly added to the value of the property.

The Vermilion Malleable Iron Company produces only a high-class malleable iron, known as "Certified Malleable Iron," that is to say, the malleable castings are certified as to quality, strength and elongation by the American Malleable Castings Association, and the entire manufacturing process is conducted under the inspection of that Association. Certified malleable iron is around 50 per cent stronger than the ordinary malleable product. It approaches very closely to steel and has supplanted to a great degree many parts formerly made from steel castings.

The officials of the Vermilion Malleable Iron Company at present, (1925), are as follows:

President, F. A. Poor; Vice-President, P. W. Moore; Operating Vice-president, F. C. Moore; Secretary, H. C. Holloway; Treasurer, F. A. Preston; General Manager, R. W. J. Harris.





Vermilion Malleable Iron Company in 1907 (above), 1925 (below)



## THE AMERICAN CAN COMPANY

---

Classified as another of Hoopeston's major industries, the American Can Company is another of those industrial enterprises of the city which center around the canning business. Millions of tin cans, many of which find a ready market at the two great Canning factories here, The Illinois Canning Company and The Hoopeston Canning Company, are manufactured at the plant of the American Can Company every year.

The Hoopeston plant of the American Can Company is a branch of the great national corporation bearing that name, known from coast to coast and from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico. There is scarcely a state in the union in which tributary corporations and plants are not located.

With improvements completed during the early part of 1925 the plant of the American Can Company in Hoopeston is the greatest, insofar as floor space goes, of the properties of the company in the nation. Two great additions, one adjoining the west end of the factory here and the other the east end were built during the first six months of 1925 and utilized for the storage of tin cans for the first time this year. Increase of the storage capacity at the plant relieved congested conditions in other parts of the factory to a great extent, making it possible for the factory to actually manufacture many thousand more cans each year and not only to manufacture them, but giving a suitable place for their storage until they are sent from the factory to the canners of the nation, who use these products.

The plant of the American Can Company in Hoopeston is under the direct control of the executive board and officials of the great corporation who retain general offices and headquarters in New York City. The Hoopeston plant is under the charge of William Beggs, General Superintendent, who acts as the company's liasson between local affairs and the general offices in New York City.

The gradual growth of the plant of the American Can Company in this city to its present position of prominence is the story of the growth of Hoopeston and its canning industries. Each year as the city has grown and as other industries have grown correspondingly, the plant of the American Can Company has been expanded to meet that growth. The fact that the great corporation believes sufficiently in Hoopeston to make additions to their property here, that make the plant the greatest in actual floor space of any of their properties in the country, is a testimonial to the soundness of the industrial future of the city that is of untold value to Hoopeston.

## THE ILIFF-BRUFF CHEMICAL COMPANY

---

The magic of one of the world's oldest and most interesting professions enters into the products of the Iliff-Bruff Chemical Company, established in Hoopeston in the year 1915 by Ellsworth Iliff and Milton C. Bruff.

"Snow White Phosphate," that in turn goes into the make-up of a thousand products of food is manufactured in wholesale quantities by The Iliff-Bruff Company, considered as one of Hoopeston's most substantial and growing major industrial enterprises.

Other products of the field of chemistry are also manufactured by The Iliff-Bruff Company, which each year since its establishment in Hoopeston, has taken a step forward in the ranks of such industries in the entire nation.

Plans of the company in the future to utilize the waste material from the making of Snow White Phosphate, by the manufacture of chemical by-products, announced early in the year 1925, are going forward at the present time. In the test laboratory of the plant, experiments are going forward that are expected to culminate in the placing of other products on the world market by The Iliff-Bruff Company in quantities that will further associate their name with those of the leaders in the chemical industry of the nation.

The Iliff-Bruff is considered among the most progressive of Hoopeston's industrial concerns, affording employment to many men that are well paid the year around.

The scientific nature of the chemical industry makes any description of the processes and products manufactured impossible to any person except a chemist, and therefore none is attempted.

---

## THE HOOPESTON ICE AND COLD STORAGE COMPANY

---

Incorporated on September 11, 1907, The Hoopeston Ice & Cold Storage Company is one of Hoopeston's substantial and growing industrial enterprises. Fred Park, Louis A. Michels and Ralph Parks were the original incorporators, stock being valued at \$16,000. The year following the incorporation, 1908, J. V. Evans, now assistant cashier of the First National Bank, took over the interests of Louis A. Michels in the concern, and took charge of the office.

Steam and condensed water methods of producing ice were used by the company until the year 1919, when the plant was

greatly improved and electricity installed. By use of electricity the company has been enabled to furnish residents of Hoopeston with an excellent product, one which compares favorably with that of any other ice manufacturing concern in the state of Illinois. Use of electricity has also made possible the maintaining of a low rate to Hoopeston consumers considering the quality of the product produced.

The Hoopeston Ice & Cold Storage Company has a capacity of twenty tons of ice per day and this capacity is taxed to the limit by demands for the product. Improvements in the plant of the Company during the past year have been numerous, new machinery being installed, etc., that will in the future take care of the growing demand.

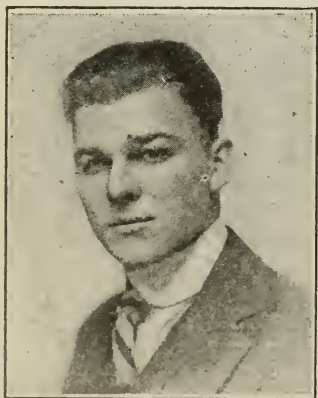
Present officers of the company are: Fred Park, president; Ralph Parks, vice-president; Nellie Brougher, secretary and J. V. Evans, treasurer.

---

### THE P. H. WEBBER COMPANY

---

Established in Hoopeston in June, 1915. the P. H. Webber Company has grown to be considered one of Hoopeston's vital industries, that each year is commanding a larger share of patronage throughout the nation. P. H. Webber and Frank Calkins were the original founders of the P. H. Webber Company, Mr. Calkins remaining affiliated with it until 1917, when his interests were purchased by Mr. Webber and he retired from the firm.



**Ralph Webber**

Much of the romance of business developed from the brain of an inventor to a commanding position in the markets of the world, and from the hope and dream of one man to a flourishing and successful business, is contained in the story of the P. H. Webber Company.

The manufacture of shock absorbers of the double arm type, the invention of P. H. Webber, and recognized as the best type of shock absorber in the country by experts to whom it is known under the trade name of the W. & C. Shock Absorber, is the principal product of the company today.

A patent was applied for on his invention by Mr. Webber in 1914 and it was in the battle that grew over the issuing of the patent that much of the trouble experienced by the company



originated. This patent was issued in triplicate, one to Mr. Webber, one to the H. & D. Company, at Crawfordsville, Indiana, and one to a Decatur company. Manufacture of the shock absorber was started by all three concerns and an inevitable price war resulted. Various changes followed, the Allith-Prouty Company at Danville securing a lease from the Indiana concern for the manufacture of the product and later relinquishing the lease to a Monticello, Illinois concern. The Allith-Prouty Company then made an agreement with the P. H. Webber Company to continue manufacturing the shock absorber under a royalty agreement. This agreement is still in effect and that it is a success is attested to by the prosperous and growing condition of the Hoopeston industry.

Three years ago, manufacture and sale of another product was started by the P. H. Webber Company—that of replacement spring shackle bolts. These are made in 25 different sizes by the P. H. Webber Company for sale to the garage trade and to jobbers. One cabinet of these bolts made by the Hoopeston concern, contains an assortment of 113 pieces and still another assortment for use of smaller concerns is made whereby 33 of the replacement spring shackle bolts are mounted on a board for display purposes. These articles are of great value to garage men for repair work and are meeting an increasing demand, further building up the prestige and business of the P. H. Webber Company.

During the year 1924, the P. H. Webber Company manufactured 20,000 sets of shock absorbers, which will give some idea of the vast business that they carry on here. The making of the replacement spring shackle bolt is also fast being developed from a sideline to a major product of the company.

Present officers of the company are as follows: P. H. Webber, president; I. F. Webber, vice-president; R. S. Webber, secretary and treasurer.

---

### THE A. W. MURRAY COMPANY

---

On March 4, 1904, A. W. Murray and James Fenwick established a plumbing and heating business under the firm name of Murray and Fenwick. This business was established in the building now occupied by the Crescent Meat market and the shop was located on the second floor. Mr. M. V. Brickey and Sons owned and operated a hardware store on the first floor of this building. They had a complete set of tinner's tools on the second floor but having no one to work for them, they rented this shop with the tools for a period of one year. Not having money enough to purchase their own tools, it was decided to accept this propo-

sition and establish the business in this manner. The method of transportation for merchandise, pipe, fittings and so forth, was by using a push cart for which was paid 50c rental per month. They didn't even own the cart. The motive power was furnished by one A. W. Murray, who pushed the cart up Main street and Market street and the various alleys in the outlying districts of the city of Hoopeston at that time, delivering and hauling the pipe, fittings and so forth, from job to job. Not infrequently, he hauled a complete bathroom outfit in one load, consisting of a bathtub, lavatory, closet and sink. At that time there was only one automobile in the city, that was owned by J. S. McFerren and when it ran, which was not very often, the speed that it obtained was no greater than that of the push cart, so that they really had nothing to worry about, so far as being bumped by an automobile, while pushing the cart down the streets.

The business continued at this shop for one year, after which it grew so that it was necessary to seek larger quarters, and too, it was desired to get a shop on the ground floor. Walter Johnson constructed the building now occupied by the Sanitary Dry Cleaners and the Denman Shoe Repair Shop and The Murray Company rented the part of the building now occupied by the Sanitary Dry Cleaning Co. This gave a large room with better light and first floor facilities, where the firm could have a small show room and office space. The company continued here until in 1907 when A. W. Murray purchased the interest owned by James Fenwick and continued it under the name of Arthur W. Murray Co. After remaining in this building for a year or two longer, it was again found necessary to seek more room. The building now occupied by John Long's Meat market and grocery store was available and was rented from Mrs. Lillian Warner. On moving the office, merchandise and fixtures in this building, it was found that the firm had considerably more commodious quarters and plenty of room to transact business. It continued here until 1912, when the company were again forced to find more room. Not wishing to give up the building, because of having a Market street location and good show room possibilities, it was decided to rent the rear end of the lot, on which now stands the I. E. Merritt building. On this lot was constructed a one-story frame building, 50x50 feet in size, connecting this building up with a run way which was conerved to protect men going back and forth between the buildings and then all tools, merchandise and shop equipment was moved to this building. This gave considerably more room in the Warner Building and the firm constructed a very up-to-date show room in the front party. The stock room occupied the rear of the building, while all of the shop was done in the frame building in the rear. The firm continued using these two buildings until in 1914 when it was decided they could do much better if the entire business could be combined under

one roof, having a first and second floor. This matter was taken up with Mr. Merritt, who owned the lot on which the one-story building was located and he decided to erect a building suitable for the needs, under a five-year lease, and work was immediately started on this building and the firm was given occupancy in the month of May or June in 1924. They were doing a considerable amount of business at this time and it was not long before it was found that they were using every available inch of the building.

In the month of February, 1915, a very disastrous explosion and fire occurred which entirely wrecked the building and burned all stock, merchandise, books and everything, leaving no records whatever. This fire and explosion was caused by gasoline. However, after the debris had been cleared away, it was found that some of the tools and fittings were in fairly good shape, and these were gathered together and the second floor of the building that the firm now owns was rented. This building was then occupied by the Ransom and Sims Automobile Co. The Ransom and Sims people very kindly consented to the Murray Company using their second floor until the building could be rebuilt on the site of the fire. A shop was established in this building and an office on the fifth floor of the Willdon Building. Mr. Merritt immediately re-built the shop building and the Murray Co. was again located at this place in the late Spring of 1917. They continued in business here with shop and office, until November of 1921, when it was decided to embark in the hardware business, buying out Mr. Luther Alkire, assuming his rentals and lease on the Warner building on the corner, in which the Alkire Hardware store is now located, also buying his entire shop equipment. The firm continued to operate the hardware store, and cleaning up the rear building, making some extensive repairs to the room itself as well as building a new plate glass front along South Market street, moved their office from the Merritt Building to this location, where they had a show room and office, leaving the shop and warehouse in the Merritt building. They conducted the plumbing, heating, sheet metal and hardware business until February, 1923, at which time it was decided to sell the hardware business, continuing plumbing, heating and sheet metal work. This was done and Mr. Alkire again became owner of the hardware store. Although The Murray firm continued to use the rear of the hardware building as an office and show room, it was found most inconvenient to have the office in one building and the shop and warehouse in another, and it was decided it would be necessary to confine the business under one roof. In the latter part of January, 1924, the firm bought the O. D. Barrett building, which is now occupied, making extensive repairs so that it would give practically three floors, and in April, 1924, moved the entire equipment, showroom, shop and warehouse to



this building. The business has continued to increase and recently it was found necessary to purchase a warehouse and garage. For this purpose the firm secured the brick building on the rear end of the lot belonging to Mr. Ed. Goldsbery. This new building, after having been put in first-class shape is adequate to store the four trucks, as well as much new merchandise which comes in from time to time.

The volume of the business in 1904 was \$10,000 annually. This volume has increased steadily from year to year until The Murray Company are now doing from a \$140,000 to \$175,000 business annually. The business is not incorporated, but at the present time is a partnership consisting of Arthur W. Murray and Clarence W. Murray. This partnership was established in 1923. The firm, however, operates under the name of the Arthur W. Murray Company, Clarence Murray having full charge of the local shop and work and Arthur W. Murray looking after the financial end of the business and the outside school and plumbing work.

---

## THE HOOPESTON TELEPHONE COMPANY

---

The first franchise for the establishment of a telephone exchange and for the placing of equipment for such an exchange in Hoopeston was granted to J. E. Whitman on March 17, 1902. The franchise was granted for a period of 25 years and within a short time after its passage by the city council the city was enjoying telephone service.

In 1905 Elijah J. Boorde and U. S. Thompson, of Fithian, Illinois, came to Hoopeston, purchased the company and became its owners. Later Mr. Boorde purchased the entire concern and is at the present day its owner and manager.

The years intervening have seen improvement after improvement made by Mr. Boorde in the lines of the company in Hoopeston until the city enjoys service that is generally conceded to be better than that afforded in cities many times the size of Hoopeston. The most modern and up-to-date equipment serves the company not only in its exchange in the Willdon building but also in its lines throughout the city.

One of the greatest improvements undertaken since the granting of the original franchise is now in progress in Hoopeston, that when completed will further increase the good service already enjoyed. The vast task of replacing every line in the city with the newest and most modern equipment of this nature was undertaken several months ago and so great is the task involved that it will not be until September, 1925, that it is

fully completed. Other improvements of a technical nature are also on the program at this time.

Of late years John R. Boorde, son of the head of the telephone company, has taken much of the burden of its management from the shoulders of his father, although the latter remains actively at the head of its affairs.

---

## THE CENTRAL ILLINOIS PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

---

Hoopeston today is served by one of the best of the great public utility concerns that cross and recross the State of Illinois in a vast network of electrical systems—The Central Illinois Public Service Company. Electricity is furnished for light, heat and power to residents of Hoopeston, as well as gas for domestic and industrial use at a rate that is the lowest of any city in the State. Offices of the company are maintained in Hoopeston, in connection with which a retail store is also maintained, where citizens may purchase electrical and gas using appliances at a cost that compares favorably with prices charged for such articles in any city of the state.

The furnishing of gas and electricity to the city of Hoopeston, the most important public utility of any city, came into existence here in the year 1891, when the Hoopeston Electric Light Company was organized by J. S. McFerren and A. H. Trego and a franchise granted to C. J. Wakeman, its president and treasurer, to supply residents of the city with electricity and gas under the terms of this franchise, which is to remain in effect for a period of fifty years (until 1941.)

Later the Hoopeston Electric Light and Heating Company became the owners of the franchise granted C. J. Wakeman and the property of the Hoopeston Electric Light Company, organized in 1891. The Hoopeston Electric Light and Heating Company was organized by Mr. Wakeman and the stock was sold to Hoopeston citizens. The company was incorporated and operated for a number of years until Hoopeston as a field for this purpose attracted the attention of a state public utility corporation which took over the franchise.

In the years following several changes took place until the franchise and plant here was acquired by the Central Illinois Public Service Company, which has successfully and satisfactorily operated it up to the present time.

C. V. Luby is the Hoopeston manager of the C. I. P. S. Company and for a number of years has made his home here, as is the policy of the company in other cities, of having a man familiar

with local conditions, etc., in direct charge of each of their branch plants throughout the state of Illinois.

The plant of the Central Illinois Public Service Company in Hoopeston is one of the best properties owned by the company in Illinois. Improvements made since the acquiring of the utility rights here by this company include the building of another main power line that brings electricity to Hoopeston for conversion at the big plant here into the product used on Hoopeston's streets and in the city's homes and industrial plants. By the building of this second main "feeder" line the Central Illinois Public Service Company has two, either of which will bear the entire load of power and lighting demanded by the city, making it practically certain that at no time can the city be without power or light.

All of Hoopeston's industries use electrical power to a greater or lesser extent, making the industry that produces that power one of the most important in the city. Upon it depends the turning of the factory wheels that mean dollars for Hoopeston's wage earners, dollars for Hoopeston's merchants. Upon it also depends the light and heat of many homes while the gas produced by the company goes into hundreds of homes to lighten the labors of the housewives. The number of domestic users of gas and electricity, under the efficiency of the Central Illinois Public Service Company during the active management of Mr. Luby as head of the company's interests here has almost doubled. It is upon this fact more than upon any other that statisticians have based their report at many times in the past that Hoopeston homes are generally far above the average viewed from a modern improvement standpoint.

The policy of the Central Illinois Public Service Company in late years of extending to users of gas and electricity the right to become stockholders in the company has been taken advantage of by many Hoopeston citizens. Upon this fact is also based in a small measure the popularity of the company, citizens who have become stockholders feeling they are more or less taking an active participation in the affairs of the company, which affect their own lives and homes to a great degree. The remainder of the company's popularity in this section is due to the fact that they render excellent service. At no time in the history of the city have residents enjoyed as excellent service as has been rendered by the Central Illinois Public Service Company, service that is further improved from year to year, and that the company is planning to further improve as the needs of the city grow.



## THE CHICAGO & EASTERN ILLINOIS RAILWAY AND ITS PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOOPESTON

---

The main line of the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railway between Chicago and Danville, Illinois, was originally projected by Joseph E. Young, who caused the incorporation, by special charter of the Illinois Legislature, approved February 16th, 1815, of the Chicago, Danville and Vincennes Railroad Company.

The amount of capital stock was fixed at One Million dollars and the incorporators were William D. Judson, Joseph E. Young, James M. Walker, Joseph Peters, John C. Short, Alvan Gilbert, C. A. Lake, James K. Richie and William Kile. The purpose of the corporation was to construct a single or double track railroad from a point in Lawrence County on the Wabash River, opposite Vincennes, Indiana, to Chicago, by way of Paris in Edgar County, and Danville.

The construction of the road was commenced in 1869 and completed from Dolton to Danville during the year 1871. A branch, 25 miles in length, was also constructed, and opened for business in July 1873, from Bismarck, on the main line north of Danville, through Covington, on what is now the Peoria Division of the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railway Company, to Coal Creek (Snoddy's Mills) in Fountain County, Indiana.

---

So reads the prosaic record of the construction of the first line of the C. & E. I.—the line that was destined to develop Hoopston from a scattered group of farm buildings to a progressive city of six thousands. It does not tell of the physical difficulties of construction, the hardships the engineers had to undergo, the ridicule to which the incorporators were subjected for projecting such an untried, unproved method of communication. The right kind of labor was difficult to procure; skilled labor was unknown. Capital was reluctant to enter such a venture.

It was longer ago than mere dates represents. It was in the days when the carpet-baggers and Ku Kluxers were still playing tag with the negroes; it was during the time when Jay Gould and James Fisk were cornering the visible supply of gold, and just before the financial panic of 1873. President Grant was spending a great deal of effort to secure Santo Domingo. The Virginian crisis occurred in 1873 when Spanish authorities captured that ship with eight Americans on board.

But the fondest visions of the builders of the C. & E. I. were not without foundation. A wave of new industry was rolling through the North and Middle West. In the next generation this had assumed tidal proportions in the farm and mining regions of central Illinois. A development of adequate means of communica-

tion was absolutely necessary to secure the prosperity that was within reach. It would be painful to conjecture how long it would have taken to develop Hoopeston had not the C. & E. I. been built when it was.

We today would call that first road poorly constructed. The principal business was the carriage of coal. The requirements of present-day rapid passenger transportation were, of course, unforeseen. Could one of the original engineers have seen the present roadbed of the C. & E. I. he would have had the surprise of his life. Hundred-pound rails are laid in double and triple track on rock ballast, the route constructed at great expense to reduce to a minimum all grades and curves. The palace cars of today and the mammoth locomotives would have seemed unbelievable to those men.

With the expansion of the C. & E. I. lines north to Chicago, south through Indiana and southwest to St. Louis, Hoopeston's products have been provided with outlets to the gateways of the world. Centrally located as regards different rate territories, Hoopeston shippers have the benefit of freight rates applying from Chicago, St. Louis, Peoria and such cities. Besides the excellent passenger service to and from Chicago, through passenger service on the famous Dixie Route to Florida gives Hoopeston people direct connection with America's most popular winter resorts. Hoopeston is also provided with through daily service south to the scenic Gulf Coast and New Orleans. Daily service to St. Louis affords direct connections with all points in the Southwest. In fact, because of its present direct connection with the outside world, Hoopeston's opportunities for expansion and progress are limited only to the breadth of vision of its own people.

---

## NICKEL PLATE ROAD

---

The New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad Company, Lake  
Erie and Western District

---

## The Story of The Old Lake Erie

---

The romance of pioneer railroad building is well written into the pages of the Lake Erie and Western's history.

The original charter for the Indianapolis-Peru Division was granted in 1846, making the road a companion for the Madison & Indianapolis, the first railroad in Indiana. It may be news to many to know that at one time the Madison & Indianapolis and the Peru & Indianapolis railroads were operated together, but this plan did not prove a success because the Peru & Indianapolis did not reach any important terminal. The Madison railroad

reached the Ohio River and gave outlet to freight and passenger traffic. The Peru & Indianapolis ran up into the Miami Indian reserve and ended there. Trade was inadequate to make it a paying merger and the Madison & Indianapolis railroad withdrew.

Work on the Peru & Indianapolis division did not begin until three years after the granting of the charter. In 1849 track building was started between Indianapolis and Noblesville and in 1851 the road was opened over this twenty-one miles of track. It was crude construction, for the rails were of the flat type. In 1854 the line had been completed to Peru at a cost of \$700.00. The flat rails proved a failure and they were replaced by the "T" type a few years later. The road became known as the Indianapolis, Peru & Chicago.

The line running through Hoopeston, Illinois, was incorporated in Illinois, February 28, 1867, under the LaFayette, Bloomington & Mississippi Railway Co., to build a line from Bloomington to the Indiana State line west of LaFayette. This company having become insolvent, the mortgage given it by Abram B. Bayless, trustee, was foreclosed at the January term, 1876, and the LaFayette, Bloomington & Mississippi Railroad Company was sold May 16, 1876, to John Martin. George I. Seney, Henry K. Sheldon, E. H. Lyman and Simeon R. Chittendon as trustees for the holder of the bonds.

The Master Commissioner made a deed to these purchasers June 24, 1876, and The LaFayette, Bloomington and Mississippi Railroad Company was incorporated Sept. 27, 1876, with the same routes as The LaFayette, Bloomington & Mississippi Railway Company, Dec. 21, 1876, the purchasers, at the sale hereintoforesaid referred to, deeding the property to The LaFayette, Bloomington & Mississippi Railway Company.

The LaFayette, Muncie & Bloomington Railroad Company was incorporated in Indiana, July 13, 1869, with a route from Muncie, Indiana to the state line of Illinois in the general direction of Bloomington, Illinois. This company having defaulted in the interest of the mortgage given to Abram B. Bayless to secure its bond, the mortgage was foreclosed in the United States Circuit Court for the District of Indiana, and the property ordered sold, and was sold, on April 3, 1879, to C. R. Cummings, E. H. R. Lyman, Dan. P. Eels and John S. Newberry.

On April 2, 1879, H. S. Fishback, Special Master Commissioner, who had made sale of the property to C. R. Cummings, E. H. R. Lyman, Dan. P. Eels and John S. Newberry deeded the property to them.

The Muncie & State Line Railroad Company was incorporated in Indiana, on April 28, 1897, with the same route as that of The LaFayette, Bloomington Railroad Co., and on April 29, 1879, C. R. Cummings, E. H. R. Lyman, Dan. P. Eels and John S. Newberry deeded the property to it. On July 24, 1879, The Muncie



& State Line Railroad Company, and The LaFayette, Bloomington & Mississippi Railroad Co. were consolidated under the name of the LaFayette, Bloomington & Muncie Railway Co.

December 11, 1879, The Lafayette, Bloomington & Muncie Railway Co. and The Lake Erie & Western Railway Co. (of Ohio and Indiana) were consolidated under the name of The Lake Erie & Western Railway Co., which assumed the mortgages theretofore issued by the constituent companies.

The Lake Erie & Western Railroad Co., during 1887 and 1888 built and opened for traffic that portion of the line between Bloomington and Peoria.

The road first took the title of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad Company in 1887. It was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois and succeeded the following properties:

Indianapolis to Peru, Indiana, formerly the property of the Indianapolis, Peru & Chicago Railway Co., sold under foreclosure and deed to the new company, April 8, 1887.

Peru to La Porte, Indiana, formerly the property of Chicago, Cincinnati & Louisville Railway Company, sold under foreclosure and deeded to the new company March 30, 1887. La Porte to Michigan City, Indiana, formerly the property of the Michigan City & Indianapolis Railroad Company, sold under foreclosure and deeded to the company April 8, 1887.

Connersville to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and New Castle to Rushville, Indiana, formerly property of the Ft. Wayne, Cincinnati & Louisville Railroad Company, was bought by the company and title acquired May 28, 1890.

Main Line. Almost an entire book would be required to tell of the numerous changes that have taken place in the east-west division of the Lake Erie & Western from Sandusky, Ohio, across central Indiana to Peoria, Illinois. That division represents the merging of many small railroads.

The Lake Erie & Louisville Railroad Company and Indianapolis & Sandusky Railroad Company were consolidated in 1879, and a few months later the additional trackage of the LaFayette, Bloomington & Muncie Railway Company was merged to create the "Main Line" of the Lake Erie. Then came another project, The LaFayette, Bloomington & Mississippi Railway Company, which extended the line from Bloomington to Peoria, Illinois.

The Lake Erie & Western retained its title even after it became a part of the New York Central system, several years ago. The New York Central system dropped the Lake Erie & Western affiliations and the property was transferred to the Nickel Plate Road. And thus passes the old Lake Erie & Western.

People along the line will miss the old Lake Erie & Western as a familiar name. Children born along its right-of-way, now grandparents, and it is probable that many years will elapse before the old road is known by any other name. But time, pro-

gress and capital have decreed that the road's official name now be the Nickel Plate.

An interesting incident in connection with the passing of the Lake Erie & Western is that it also marks the retirement of A. D. Thomas, its treasurer, after 45 years of continuous service.

The veteran railroad man recalls his early troubles in handling the finances of his company. Sufficient money to pay the employees frequently was not forthcoming. Sometimes the employees would have to wait two, three and often five or six months before welcome pay came.

Wood burning engines still were in vogue forty-five years ago. The little locomotives had funnel shaped stacks that emitted a roaring sound when the engine was in operation. The locomotives were gala affairs.

The old Lake Erie has perhaps undergone more changes of operation and control than any railroad in the middle west. It has passed through receiverships, mergers and extensions.

Minstrels have hurled their jokes at it; towns and cities along its right of way have both boosted and berated it, but the old Lake Erie has gone on to the fateful hour, when it was absorbed by one of the country's greatest transportation systems.

Thus the progress of our city has been contributed to by the old Lake Erie. It has had its ups and downs with the great farming community and manufacturing industry where today many car loads of freight come and go, from a city of 6,000 inhabitants, helping to carry the products to all parts of the country.

---

## GENERAL REVIEW

---

While those industries that are related in detail in the foregoing pages of this chapter are those that are generally conceded to be of the greatest importance to the city of Hoopeston, there are many others of a lesser degree of importance, yet without which the city would find itself in sore straits.

Included among these are the lumber and grain companies operated here: The Illinois Lumber, Grain & Coal Company; The Hott-Miller Lumber and Coal Company, The Hoopeston Grain and Coal Company and the McGill Coal Company. The names of these concerns, that annually do many thousands of dollars worth of business here, are self-explanatory.

Two other concerns of a size to merit special mention are the A. H. Campbell Company and Otto Johnson & Sons. Both of these concerns have for many years supplied the needs of the farmer residents of this vicinity with farm implements. Otto Johnson & Sons, in connection with their implement warehouse, also maintain a blacksmith shop for the repair of implements, etc.,

while the Campbell Company maintains a retail hardware store in connection with their warehouse. In the first half of the year 1925 the place of business of the A. H. Campbell Company on Bank street underwent remodelling and great improvement, until the imposing structure now housing the company is one of the largest of Hoopeston's semi-industrial concerns.

The Hoopeston Bottling Works, East Washington street, is owned and operated by Charles E. Hughes. Many delicious varieties of soft drinks are manufactured and bottled by this concern which find their way to the counters of scores of retail sellers throughout this section of the state.

John Green & Sons Machine shop is another of the industries that is at the present time budding out and that in a short time is to take its place among the major industries of the city. A new building, to be erected on West Main street to house a plant for the manufacture of the re-babbiting machines that are the product of this company, manufactured here on a small scale for many years past, is included among plans for the next year (1925-26). When this has been done John Green & Sons will have been admitted to the ranks of the major industries.

Hoopeston is also the home of the Shaw & Allen Company, one of the newest of the industrial enterprises here. Established by Chicago residents who came to Hoopeston in 1923, the Shaw & Allen Company manufactures men's and boy's clothing for the wholesale trade. They are a vigorous and growing concern and in the years to come may also reach the size that will merit their being listed in the ranks of the major industrial plants of Hoopeston.

With decentralization of industry in progress throughout the nation and great industries generally moving their plants from the larger centers of population to smaller towns, where conditions are better, Hoopeston is one of the best prospects of the middlewest for the establishment of major industrial concerns.

Close co-operation between the industries already located here and the Chamber of Commerce, through an industrial committee that is largely composed of executives of industries, make it certain that none but worthwhile enterprises can obtain location here. This co-operation also makes it certain that location of desirable factories in the future will come.

Activities of the Central Illinois Public Service Company in this line also will in the future prove of great benefit to the city. This public utility corporation now maintains a branch that has for its purpose the location of industries desiring removal from the larger cities and it is significant that the head of this branch of the Central Illinois Public Service Company considers Hoopeston the second most desirable city in the entire state of Illinois for the location of more industrial concerns.



ILLINOIS



**THE TOWN CLOCK BUILDING**

This building, owned by Ruby Yonkelowitz, and B. R. Burton and housing the Burton Dry Goods Store, the offices of the Central Illinois Public Service Company; the offices of Drs. Kline and Earel and Dr. J. M. Hannell, Dentist, as well as the I. O. O. F. Lodge Rooms and a number of apartment tenants, was the scene of a disastrous fire on the morning of January 20, 1925. The tower of the town clock, shown in the picture was completely destroyed and thus passed out one of Hoopeston's landmarks. The town clock is to be replaced by the owner of the building in the future with a similar tower and clock.

## Parks and Public Buildings

---

The Federal Building; Growth of Postoffice Business; The First Library Association; Founding of First Public Library by Mary Hartwell Catherwood Club; Founding of Carnegie Free Public Library and Its Growth; The City Hall and Municipal Offices; City Schools and Educational System; McFerren Park Is Given to City by J. S. McFerren; City (North) Park and Union Park Given City by Alba Honeywell; Floral Hill Cemetery, The Gift of Thomas Hoopes.

---

Completed in 1918 at a cost of \$10,000, Hoopeston has a federal building housing the post office of the city that would be a credit to a city of much larger size. The appropriation for this federal building was first passed by the congress in 1910, but various legislative delays prevented the money for its construction becoming available until in 1917, when construction work was started. It was completed and ready for occupancy on October 5, 1918, when the postmaster and his employes took possession.

The building is a handsome structure of red faced brick and stone, fireproof throughout. A spacious lobby forms the main entrance to the building, where hundreds of Hoopeston people come each day to transact business. Money order, stamp windows, parcels post and each special class of business handled by the postoffice are carried on separately. At one end of the spacious lobby is the office of the postmaster. Here the big business that is annually conducted by the federal institution in this city is directed.

Growth of the Hoopeston post office business since the establishment of the office here by the post office department in 1872 with J. M. R. Spinning as the first postmaster, has reflect-



ed the general prosperity of the city. Postmaster Spinning received a salary of \$12 per year, when he was appointed, salaries of postmasters being based upon the amount of business done by their offices. The salary of Postmaster Kelly A. Cardiff, present postmaster of the city of Hoopeston, is in excess of \$2,000 which will give some idea of the rate of growth in the fifty odd year period since the founding of the city.



**Kelly A. Cardiff**

The securing of a federal building for Hoopeston was an achievement to which Hoopeston owes William Finley, an ex-postmaster of the city, and Charles Warner a debt of gratitude. There were other residents who also pulled with might and main for the building, bringing their influence to bear upon "Uncle Joe" Cannon, representing the eighteenth district in congress, and who finally secured the Hoopeston appropriation.

The federal building is an attractive brick structure at the corner of East Penn and Market streets. Spacious grounds surround it that are kept in excellent condition and form a beauty spot that has drawn many compliments from visitors to Hoopeston.

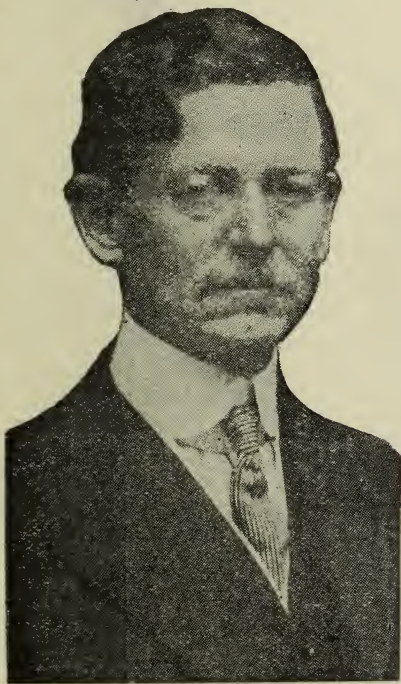
To Postmaster Kelly A. Cardiff and his corps of assistants much of the credit for the excellent financial condition of the postoffice business here is due. Courtesy on the part of all employes, and a thorough knowledge of the vast business of which the Hoopeston office is an integral part, has been rewarded by an increase in business each year at the postoffice.

Officials and employes of the post office are: Kelly A. Cardiff Postmaster; C. A. E. Sheets, Assistant Postmaster; Leroy Songer, Clerk; O. W. Heaton, Money Order Clerk, Rora P. Smith, clerk. In addition to these are mail carriers who cover Hoopeston's five rural routes and the streets of the city.

## THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

---

The first attempt to found a public library in Hoopeston came in the year 1872, when the Hoopeston Library and Lecture Association was organized on December 30. The Hon. Lyford Marston was elected president, R. Casemut, vice-president; G. W. Seavey, secretary; W. Gloze, treasurer and S. E. Miller, librarian. There were fifty members of this association, which after a few years of existence was permitted to die out, interest not being sustained in the project.



**J. H. DYER**

Mayor of Hoopeston 1893-95, Senior member of law firm of Dyer & Dyer and a member of the Library Board since its organization in 1898.

Following the organization of the Mary Hartwell Catherwood Club in Hoopeston in 1895, the movement for a free public library was again taken up and sponsored by this powerful organization, soon had become a fact. From its founding until January 21, 1905, the library was housed in the city building on North Market street.

The first board of trustees for the Hoopeston Public Library was appointed by Mayor John L. Hamilton and confirmed by the city council in June, 1898. The members were Mrs. Mary Hartwell Catherwood, Mrs. Lillian C. Warner, Mrs. Anna Phelps and Messrs. William Moore, A. H. Trego, H. L. Bushnell, A. L. Shriver, James H. Dyer and William J. Sharon. The first meeting of the board was held July 6, 1898, and organization was effected by the election of A. H. Trego as president and A. L. Shriver as secretary.

The library was formally opened on Monday evening, November 23, 1898, in a room set apart for it by the city council in the new city building. The whole building was thrown open and the people

were generally invited to participate in the opening. About two hundred visitors were present and a program, consisting of music

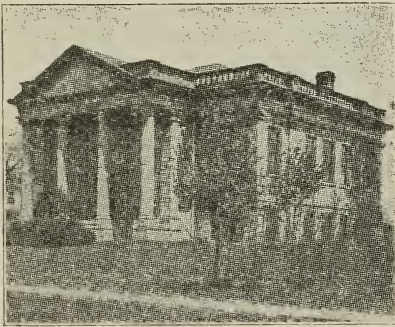


and literary exercises, was rendered. Fifty-four books were issued the first evening, and after several weeks the number of borrowers reached 200.

In November, 1903, Andrew Carnegie, millionaire philanthropist gave \$3,000 for the establishment of a free public library here, later amplifying this sum with \$2,500 in December, 1903; \$2,130 in January, 1904; \$2,370 in March, 1904, and \$2,500 in August, 1904, making a total of \$12,500.

One of Hoopeston's most generous public-spirited citizens, Alba Honeywell, donated the grounds upon which the library was to be built and on January 21, 1905, the new library was thrown open to the public, with fitting dedicatory services.

The building is of white brick and stone with a slate roof. It stands in the center of a beautiful plat of ground, graded to exactly the right pitch and is sufficiently high to present a handsome appearance from all directions. Its dimensions are 56 1-2 feet north and south by 51 feet east and west. Its classic outlines enhanced by a Grecian portico, 31 feet broad and 13 feet deep, supported by four Tuscan stone columns each 20 feet all, present a pleasing picture.



**Carnegie Library**

The main floor of the building is entered through a vestibule, 11 by 13 feet and up a few steps from the level of the portico. On each side of the vestibule is a cloak room 6 by 8, entered from the inside. The main floor is 53 feet north and south by 27 feet east and west. It is divided for convenience into three sections, the north division devoted to the children's reading room, the south to the adults reading room and the center to the entrance and delivery room. The large and handsome circular librarian's desk is situated directly in front of the entrance. Back of the desk is the section 18 by 27 feet devoted to book stands with capacity of 5,000 volumes. In the southeast corner of the main floor is the librarian's office, where the library committee also hold their meetings.

At the corner of the reference room, facing the main room,

The building is of white brick and stone with a slate roof. It stands in the center of a beautiful plat of ground, graded to exactly the right pitch and is sufficiently high to present a handsome appearance from all directions. Its dimensions are 56 1-2 feet north and south by 51 feet east and west. Its classic outlines enhanced by a Grecian portico, 31 feet broad and 13 feet deep, supported by four Tuscan stone columns each 20 feet all, present a pleasing picture.



is a handsome drinking fountain of marble and gold bronze, bearing the inscription "In Memory of Francis C. Trego." It is elegant in design and finish and was presented by A. H. Trego, president of the library board, as a memorial to the late Mrs. Francis C. Trego who took a very active part in the inception of the library idea.

Directly over the fountain is a bronze tablet 30 by 44 inches in size bearing the inscription, "The Hoopeston Library, founded by the Mary Hartwell Catherwood Club, A. D. 1898. Andrew Carnegie donor of the building. Alba Honeywell donor of the grounds, 1904."

Each year since the establishment of the library has shown a growth not only in the number of books upon its shelves but in the number of borrowers.

---

## THE CITY HALL

---

A modern brick structure erected at a cost of \$5,600, houses the city offices, the police station, fire department headquarters and the council chamber of the Board of Aldermen.

The office of the water collector is on the first floor of this building, for the convenience of citizens who have business there and the second floor is given over to the council chamber, record vaults and an office room or ante chamber for the use of city officials.

The record vaults are of fireproof construction, housing valuable data, council minutes, etc., that have been collected since the founding of the city. Built during the administration of I. E. Merritt, as Mayor of Hoopeston, these vaults are a valuable adjunct to the city building, providing an excellent place for the safekeeping of records and papers of value to the city.

The fire department quarters are used to house the big fire truck and other fire fighting paraphernalia of the volunteer fire company.

The city prison, which occupies part of the upper floor space, has two steel cells, of the latest and most modern design, calculated to safely hold any lawbreaker that is placed there by officials of the law.

Until the building of the Carnegie Library in Hoopeston, the City Hall also housed the library room, but with the removal of the library to its own quarters this room was turned into an anteroom for the council chamber and is still used as such.

## THE CITY WATERWORKS

---

Constructed in 1888, at a cost of \$12,500, the Holly system of waterworks owned by the city is now estimated to be worth well over \$100,000. With the growth of the city and increasing demand for water, improvements have been made at various times that have greatly increased the value, not only of the plant itself, but of the vast system of mains that underly the city and that carry the water for domestic and industrial use into every street within the corporate limits.

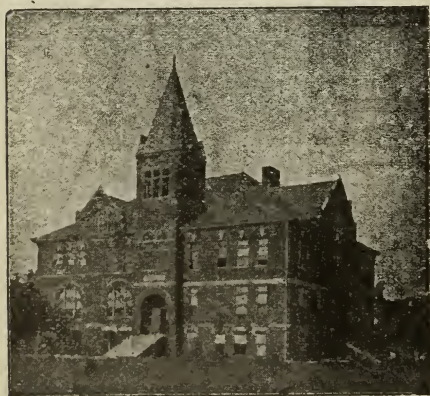
During the past six years many improvements have been made at the waterworks, including the construction of a new reservoir and the sinking of a new well. Two great pumps in the best of condition, either of which is able to carry the entire load of ordinary use, leaving the other free for any emergency call, such as a big fire, etc., are part of the waterworks plant. These pumps have been tested in actual emergency and have been found to be one of the wisest investments ever made by the city.

---

## CITY SCHOOLS

---

Three of Hoopeston's wards have school buildings erected there to care for the growing needs of education in the city. These buildings are the Honeywell, the first to be erected in Hoopeston and the Maple and Lincoln street school buildings. In addition



Greer College

to these, the Greer College building on the west side is used as a high school. Greer College was left as a gift to the city by John Greer, to be used for educational purposes, with A. H. Trego, J. S. McFerrer and R. T. Miskimen as trustees. Of these trustees, Mr. Miskimen still serves in the capacity, although both of his two former colleagues in the trusteeship have passed beyond.

The Hoopeston city schools are headed by W. R. Lowery, as Superintendent, and during his able administration of their

affairs have prospered and grown until they are known throughout the state as among the best for a city of Hoopeston's size in Illinois.

An efficient corps of teachers aid Superintendent Lowery and his officials in their task of educating Hoopeston's children during their first twelve years of school life—eight common school grades and four years of High school.



**W. R. Lowery**

The high school has for many years been an accredited institution under the system which permits students of first grade high schools to enter universities without preparatory work. This is the highest honor that can be won by a small town high school and in placing the Hoopeston institution upon this basis, Superintendent Lowery and his teachers have accomplished an object that is worthy of mention.

At the head of and supervising the work of the schools is the Board of Education, elected by the citizens of Hoopeston and consisting of a president and six members. The present president of the Board of Education is Paul E. Weber and the mem-

bers are: Harry H. Hamilton, Dr. Fred E. Earel, W. C. Welty, Walter Trego, John O. Lyons and Frank Preston.

Need for a new gymnasium and auditorium at the high school making itself felt acutely in the past several years, has led to plans being made by this school board for the construction of a new building to be used for this dual purpose and which it is expected to have ready for use before the end of 1925.

---

## M'FERREN PARK

---

McFerren Park, formerly the Hoopeston Fair Grounds, is the gift of J. S. McFerren to the city of Hoopeston. A delightful shaded area of thirty acres extent, well equipped, McFerren Park, is one of the most beautiful spots within the corporation. With the passing of the Hoopeston Fair Association and the closing of racing days in Hoopeston, the park was made a gift to Hoopeston by J. S. McFerren, the only proviso being that it was not to be used for purposes of profit.



As the city has grown and the money has become available the park has been improved from time to time until it rivals those pleasure spots of much larger cities. A great pavilion which will seat more than 2,000 people is one of these improvements worthy of mention. This pavilion is the largest meeting place in Hoopeston and has been used for countless purposes that have been of benefit to the city. Chief among these has been the chautauqua. A ladies' rest room is another improvement worthy of mention as is a zoo



**McFerren Park Pavilion**

that has been founded and that is added to from time to time as the opportunity presents itself.

It is as a picnic and play spot that McFerren Park excels any other meeting place in this section of the country, however. Great trees provide welcome shade from the hot sun. A swimming pool was constructed a few years ago and this is one of the most popular of sports during the summer months. Playground equipment has been added to the park at several times in the past and more is to be placed there in the future to provide safe sport for the children of the city.

McFerren Park is the scene of the annual Fourth of July celebration, now given under the auspices of Ira Owen Kreager Post, No. 384, American Legion and which has grown to be the greatest celebration of this nature in Eastern Illinois and Western Indiana.

---

## CITY PARK

---

The city park on North Market street is another delightful retreat for the citizens of Hoopeston residing in the northeastern section of the city. Although not of as great extent as McFerren Park, the North Park, as it is more commonly called, has beautiful shade trees, a circular band stand, where band concerts are given during the summer months and has other advantages that make it a delightful spot in which to spend leisure hours. Public spirited citizens have recently set out many beautiful flower beds in the North Park, that will greatly enhance its beauty.

## UNION PARK

---

Situated on Sixth street between McNeil and McCracken Avenues this park is perhaps the least known and used of the three in the city. Beautiful trees here also provide welcome shade, but little attempt has been made as yet to beautify this spot, due to the fact that there is as yet little demand for another pleasure spot, such as it will afford in the years yet to come. It is used as a picnic spot and by those fortunate few who live in the immediate section as a place to spend their leisure hours. Both Union Park and City Park (North Park) were the gift of Alba Honeywell to the city of Hoopeston.

---

## FLORAL HILL CEMETERY

---

On an elevation slightly higher than the surrounding country and just about a mile north of the city, lies Floral Hill Cemetery—the city of the dead—and one of the most beautiful in this section of the country. Floral Hill is the gift of Thomas Hoopes, pioneer resident to the city of Hoopeston, who donated \$5,000 to the city for the purpose of purchasing and maintaining this property, under the control of a board appointed by the city council.

Floral Hill is beautifully kept up and although it has sad associations for many residents of Hoopeston, who have loved ones lying there, nevertheless its beauty is so great that it attracts hundreds of visitors who come to walk along its gravelled paths and view its beautiful flowers.

Direct charge of Floral Hill lies in the hands of a cemetery superintendent, appointed by the mayor and responsible to that official and to the city council for the manner in which the cemetery is cared for.





# Hoopeston's Churches

---

General Review—First Church Activities—"McCracken's Pulpit"  
—Organization of First Methodist Episcopal Church and  
Growth—The First Church of Christ—The First Presbyterian  
Church—The United Presbyterian Church—The Universalist  
Church—The First Baptist Church—St. Anthony's Catholic  
Church—The Society of Friends—The Christian Science  
Church—The Free Methodist Church—Summary.

---

The church life, next to the home life of any city is one of the most important factors in the building of a community and it is significant in the history of Hoopeston that it was only a short time until the pioneer residents who followed the railroads to this vicinity or who were here when the railroads arrived, paused in their labors long enough to organize and conduct devotional exercises.

It is also significant that as a result of the devout character of these pioneer builders of the city of the prairie, that from the time the city was incorporated until the present day, there never has been a saloon within the border of the town. There did at one time exist a saloon—outside of the corporate limits of the town—barred from entry, but this attempt to edge in with the liquor traffic was soon discouraged by those who had the reigns of government in their hands and it disappeared from Hoopeston's door.

Religious services first held in Hoopeston were of the non-denominational character and were held at McCracken's store. There was no qualification for the preachers that were heard there, other than that he be able to talk on the Word. As the town grew and expanded and more of the people began to feel the need of religious instruction and worship, denominations began to form and from each of these as they were founded were developed the present large congregations and beautiful church homes that are one of the most valuable features of the city as a whole.

So large have the congregations of the churches grown and so



**The M. E. Parsonage**

---



OOPESTON Methodism has provided a comfortable house for her ministers. The house is a combination—home for the minister and his family; study where the minister reads, thinks, plans, prepares his sermons and attends to a multitude of details; office where the clerical work of the church is done by the secretary. Here the minister will see all who want to see him. Here the troubled, the needy, those with religious problems, and those who need spiritual guidance may come freely and receive such help as lies within his power to give. Here the members or adherents of the church are welcome to drop in for a friendly chat.

good is the general moral tone of the city that it has won for itself the cognomen of "The Holy City" among other towns of the land. This name applied first in a spirit of scoffing was not resented by the citizens of Hoopeston, who in the years that have passed since it first was applied have grown exceedingly proud of it. The moral tone of the city has as a result greatly benefitted and today is as good as those old pioneers who so desired it could wish.

---

## THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

---

The Methodist Society, generally conceded to be among the first to be organized in Hoopeston came into existence in the year 1872 and was organized by the Rev. B. F. Hyde, of Rossville and Presiding Elder Preston Wood. Preaching services were first held at McCracken's Store, as in the hurry and bustle of the countless activities of building the city it took some time to get matters started in the town, so that preachers could have regular places for teaching the Word.



**Methodist Episcopal Church**

The circuit at that time included Schwartz, East Lynn and Antioch, the Rev. A. H. Alkire being pastor. In 1873, the Rev.



W. Lang was pastor and J. W. Phillips, Presiding Elder. Dick school house and Bridgeman school house were added as regular appointments.

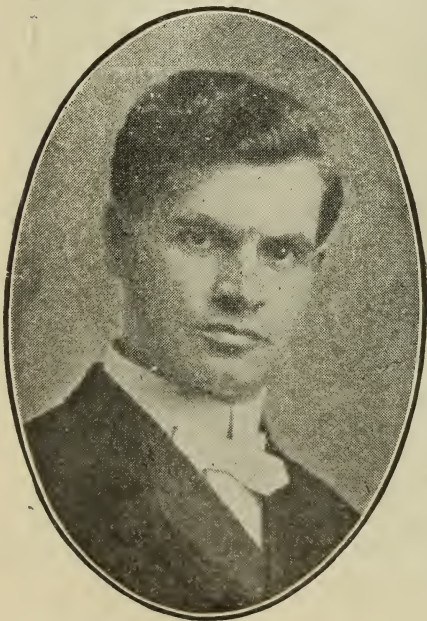
In 1874, J. Muirhead was pastor, his pastorate continuing three years. During this time the church that was to serve the Methodist congregation up to the time of the present beautiful structure was commenced. This church building cost \$3,300.

In 1877, the Rev. H. M. Hoff was appointed to this circuit and served for several years. In that year the membership of the Methodist church was 86. The Sunday school in 1877 numbered 75 members on its roster and E. B. Row was the superintendent.

Some idea of the immense growth of the Methodist Church is gained when it is known that this denomination at the present day numbers close to 500 members and that the Sunday School has at times reached the 1,000 mark. The Methodist church today is the strongest in point of numbers of any denomination in the city.

It was during the pastorate of the Rev. Parker Shields in 1896, now superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of the state of Missouri that the present beautiful church edifice was completed at a cost of \$23,000.

Prominent among the affairs of the city in every line of endeavor a number of the names of the men who are the leaders in affairs of the Methodist Church appear. Among these are I. E. Merritt, L. W. Singleton and George E. Evans. All three of these men have served as officials of the Methodist church in Hoopeston and are among its best supporters.



Rev. C. H. Young

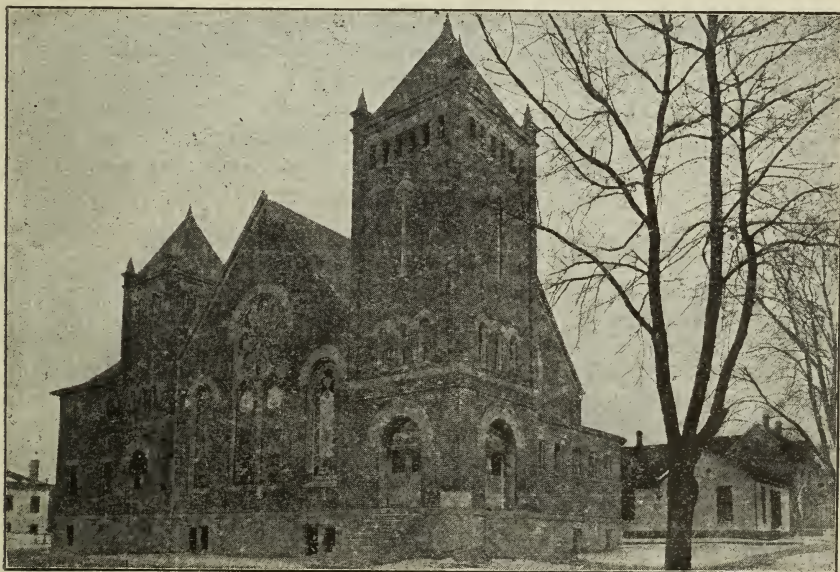
The present pastor of the Hoopeston Methodist Church is the Rev. C. H. Young, who has been here for less than one year at the present time. The Rev. Young succeeded the Rev. Harris G. Beck, who served the Hoopeston pastorate for a period of three years before accepting a call to the Methodist Episcopal Church at Mattoon, Illinois, a larger charge.

## FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

---

The First Church of Christ was organized in June, 1873, by Elder Rollie Martin with twelve members. J. M. R. Spinning and J. S. Shirley were the first Elders. Elders Roe and A. R. Owens were successive pastors for this young church. The first church building was erected in 1874 on Honeywell avenue at 646, the present residence of J. H. Jones. The structure was 36x50, with a steeple, and cost about \$1,800.

Later Elders were W. J. Hawkins and George Chamberlin, F. B. Bird, S. F. Miller, John Williams, J. A. Holton and H. C. Green. Elder Austin was one of the first preachers; T. L. Stipp was another.



Church of Christ

In 1885, the church building was moved from Honeywell avenue to the site on the corner of Main and Fourth Streets, now occupied by the Dallstream Apartments. In 1892, under the leadership of Brother Jim Lester as pastor, the church took on new life and during that year the membership was nearly doubled, having 255 at the end of the year. Brother Lester continued as pastor during the years 1893 and 1894, and the church continued to grow. Brother Rohrer served as pastor in 1895; Brother J. S. Clements in 1896; and Brother Chasman in 1897.

Rev. R. H. Robertson was called in 1898 and served during

1899 and 1900. In 1899 during Brother Robertson's time, the present modern structure was built on the northeast corner of Main and Fourth Streets, at a cost of \$30,000. The church was dedicated January 28, 1900.

Rev. G. W. Thomas served as pastor in 1901; Rev. W. O. Lappin in 1902, 1903; Rev. L. I. Mercer served in 1904, 1905, 1906; Rev. L. R. Hoteling 1907, 1908; Rev. H. F. Kelsh, 1909, 1910; Rev. Andrew Scott, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914; Rev. John P. Givens, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918; Rev. Eugene M. Smith, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923; Rev. E. F. Winkler, 1924 to March, 1925.

The church has grown through these years until the present membership reaches 600 members and has a budget of \$6,000 yearly.

During the pastorate of the beloved Eugene Smith, on May 1, 1921, the Bible School had an attendance of 683, being the largest Sunday school ever held in the history of the church in Hoopeston.

The church has just called Rev. E. S. DeMiller, of Elwood, Indiana—the pastorate now being vacant. The present officers of the church are: Elders W. P. Peirce, W. L. Townsley, Ralph R. Townsley, Harlin E. Vines and P. H. Youngblood.

---

## THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

---

Numbered among the major denominations in Hoopeston, the First Presbyterian Church is at the same time one of the most active in the city.

The First Presbyterian church was organized on May 3, 1872, by the Rev. A. L. Brooks and the Rev. W. A. Steele, a committee of the Bloomington Presbytery. The old Hibbard House, which stood at the corner of Penn street and Second Avenue was the scene of the momentous event and there were eighteen members at that time. E. R. Strauss, W. Maxwell and L. W. Anderson were the first elders.

The Rev. Steele, one of the organizers, was the first pastor, preaching one-third of the time for the first year. The Rev. M. Lynn then supplied the pulpit for one year and in the fall of 1877, the Rev. A. L. Knox, formerly of Heyworth, was employed to preach. The Rev. Knox preached in Hoopeston on Sunday mornings and evenings and in the afternoons at Victor and Ross school houses.

The church numbered thirty-six members in the year 1879 and in that year yet had no house of worship, meetings being held in Clark's Hall.

In the year 1881, a frame church was built at the corner of



Penn and Market streets in which the congregation worshipped until the year 1900, when this building was removed and the present beautiful brick and stone church, one of the most beauti-



**First Presbyterian Church**

ful in the city of Hoopeston, erected at a cost of \$21,000. The Rev. Edward J. Regennas was pastor of the church at that time.

Each year since the dedication of the present beautiful church home has shown a steady increase in the membership and activities of this church. Its Sunday school is one of the largest of the major denominations in Hoopeston. A men's brotherhood is an auxiliary of the church that has a large membership and that is increasingly active in its affairs. The Rev. S. Howard Smith is the present pastor of the church.

---

## THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

---

The United Presbyterian church was organized in May, 1872, by the Rev. J. D. Whitham, who lived at that time at Sugar Creek, near Rankin. The wave of migration in this section to the new town at the intersection of the railroads brought many pioneers from Paxton and the Rev. Whitham collected these together into a congregation of twenty-nine members, with T. C. McCaughey, G. M. Kirkpatrick and R. M. Knox as ruling elders.

The Rev. R. C. Wyatt served the church for two years as the stated supply. At first the meetings were held in the only

synagogue in the new town, McCracken's store. The Rev. R. C. Hamilton, of Ohio, preached to the congregation for three months. The Rev. E. D. Campbell, the Rev. J. H. Gibson and the Rev. G. W. Torrance successively labored here and were followed by the Rev. T. A. Houston, the supply for the charge in the year 1879.

The first church was built at a cost of \$1,500 while the Rev. Gibson was in charge of the activities here in the year 1876. At that time the membership of the church numbered forty-eight persons. This first church occupied a site at the corner of Third and Davis streets.



**United Presbyterian Church**

1899

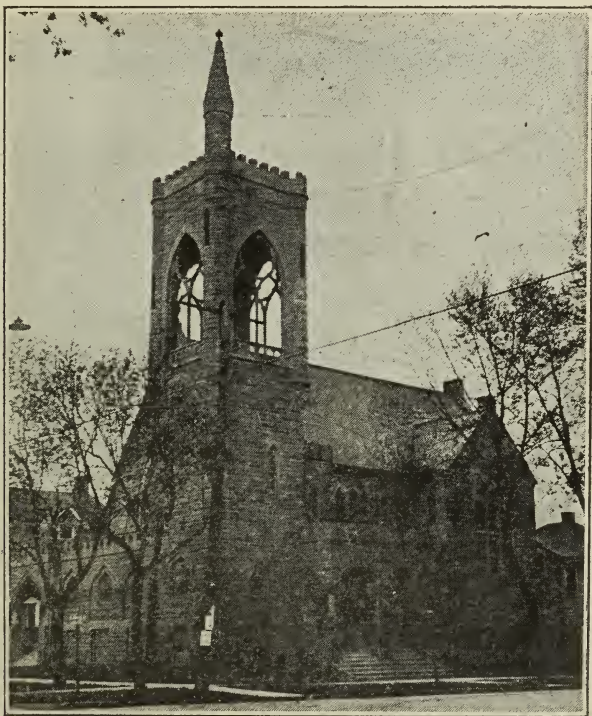
*Final*

In 1889 the congregation of the United Presbyterian church invested about \$12,000 in a fine new brick church at the corner of Market street and Honeywell Avenue. The structure is the present home of the church in Hoopston and has an excellent parsonage adjoining it.

The present pastor of the Hoopston United Presbyterian church is the Rev. J. S. Hill, who came to Hoopston to take up his work here in 1922 and who has satisfactorily and efficiently conducted the charge since that year.

## THE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

The Universalist Church of Hoopeston was organized in August, 1882, by the Rev. T. S. Guthrie, of Springfield, Ohio. Thirty-two members of this denomination had come to make their home in Hoopeston and when their numbers became known, it was determined to form a branch of the denomination in this city—that was later to take its place among the major denominations of Hoopeston.



Universalist Church

Four years later, in 1886, the present beautiful house of worship, at the corner of Market and Penn streets, was erected, which has served the growing congregation until the present day. The church home is among the most beautiful in Hoopeston and a commodious parsonage for its ministers is also maintained on East Washington street.

The church at the present day has a strong membership, and numbers some of Hoopeston's most influential and progressive citizens among its members. The present pastor is the Rev. Carl A. Polson and in the two years that he has served the Hoopeston



congregation the church has steadily grown in prestige and membership.

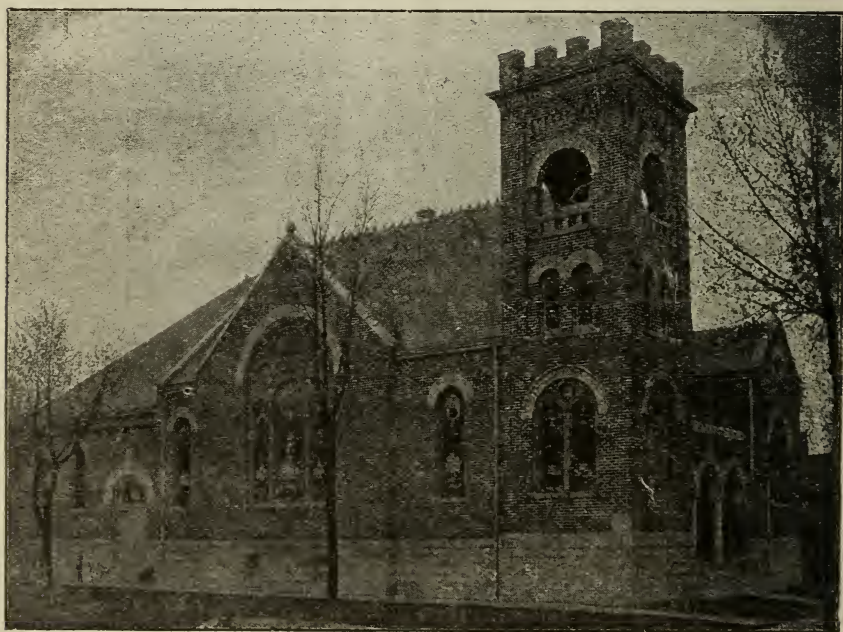
An auxiliary woman's organization, the Clara Barton Guild, is in a flourishing and prosperous condition. The Men's Brotherhood, the Universalist Comrades, is among the most influential men's brotherhoods in the city and meets once a month at the church. This organization, during the pastorate of the Rev. Polson, has become noted for the many orators of national fame and reputation that have come here to take part in its programs.

---

## THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

---

The organization of the First Baptist church in Hoopeston in March, 1873, had its inception in a series of meetings held by the Rev. G. T. Willis, in a school house three miles southeast of the city. There were six constituent members, of which the



**Baptist Church**

Rev. Willis and D. H. Chapman were two. The latter was elected deacon and clerk, offices he held for many years.

The Baptist denomination soon attracted many members to its meetings and outgrowing their quarters it was decided to

build a new church. This church was completed and dedicated in January, 1882.

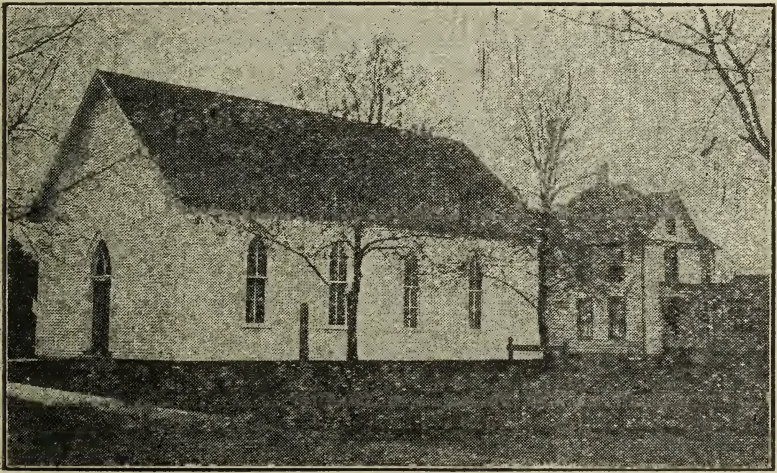
The Baptist church of today is a beautiful church house and one that well merits the large attendance that it receives. The present pastor is the Rev. Lester Boyd.

---

### ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

---

The Roman Catholic church of Hoopeston became a distinctly local organization in the year 1877 and their first house of worship in this city was built in 1877. The Rev. Fr. M. A. Manville was appointed as the first resident pastor and in 1898 he built the first Catholic rectory in Hoopeston. This parsonage was built at a cost of \$1,200.



**First Catholic Church in Hoopeston**

The present church was built in 1907 at a cost of \$35,000 and in 1922 the present rectory was completed. The present rectory is valued at \$12,000.

St. Anthony's church is among the wealthiest in Hoopeston. Two lots at the corner of South Third street and East Lincoln streets are owned by the church in addition to 160 acres of land one and one-half miles north of Hoopeston. The church property at the present day is valued at over \$100,000.

Since the year 1903 when the Rev. Fr. Fred Gahlman came to Hoopeston as its pastor St. Anthony's church has prospered and grown exceedingly. Each year have found new faces within



its church circle as new members of this faith have sought Hoop-  
 eston as a home and St. Anthony's church as the place to supply  
 their spiritual needs.

---

### THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers)

---

There were representatives of the Friends in Hoop-  
 eston from the laying out of the new town. Joseph M. Satterwhait was  
 one of the original proprietors of the town. In 1872, he built  
 a commodious home, corner of Third and Penn streets, into which  
 he and his wife, Isaac T. Lukens and wife and Miss Edith Mullen  
 moved. Here, in this new home, the first meetings were held,  
 which were continued, according to the rules and discipline of  
 the Friends, twice a week—first day and fifth day—for a year.  
 In 1873, R. M. Lukens and wife joined the representatives of that  
 faith here. Mr. Lukens had a building erected at the corner of  
 Third and Main street and arranged it for a meeting house. His  
 proposition to the Friends to occupy this met with general ap-  
 proval. It was here in the fall of 1873 that the first public meet-  
 ings of the "Richland Meeting of Friends" were held.

In 1883 the little Quaker church at the corner of Third and  
 Washington streets was built and regular meetings were held  
 there for many years. In 1900 the membership had grown from  
 the original 19 to 26 and this increase continued for a few years.

Although there are still members of the Friends in Hoop-  
 eston, descendents of those pioneers who founded the church here,  
 no active church is maintained.

---

### THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

---

The Christian Science Society of Hoop-  
 eston was organized in September, 1898, with fourteen original members, by Mrs.  
 Mary E. Conklin, of Los Angeles, California. Sunday and Wed-  
 nesday evening services were for a time held at the home of  
 members, then in the Friend's meeting house, until assembly  
 rooms were secured in the McFerren Block, where the meetings  
 were held until the completion and dedication of their church in  
 1902.

In September, 1900, the society was re-organized and incor-  
 porated under the name of "First Church of Christ, Scientist, of  
 Hoop-eston." The First reader was Miss Stella F. Sabin; Second  
 Reader, Mrs. Cornelia H. Catherwood. A public reading room



containing Christian Science Literature was opened and maintained. Completion of the present church edifice in 1902 marked the steady growth of the society in Hoopeston, a growth that has been continued until the present day.

---

## THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

---

The Free Methodist Church of Hoopeston was organized in 1893 by Rev. D. S. Moore and Rev. A. Maker, with ten charter members. This denomination has a comfortable house of worship, erected in 1896, at the corner of Third street and McCracken Avenue, where regular services are held.

---

Included among the sects that have passed out of existence in Hoopeston is the United Brethren Church of Hoopeston that was organized in 1896. Regular services were held for over a year at the homes of members of which there were five. The Rev. S. C. Allman ministered to this congregation, which passed out of existence with the absorption of its membership by other churches of the major denominations here.

The Salvation Army for many years maintained a local organization in Hoopeston, resulting from a series of tent meetings held here during the summer of 1901. Later these meetings were discontinued and no active branch of the Salvation Army is now maintained in Hoopeston.

Each of the churches of the major denominations have large and active Sunday schools, Young Peoples' Association, that are affiliated with the Township and County organizations; Ladies Aid and Missionary Societies and Men's Brotherhoods, according to their denominational customs.



# *“The Cold New Year”*

By Ol' Settler

ROBERT F. COOPER



March, 1925,    All Rights Reserved.    Hoopeston, Illinois.



The coldest day that I ever knew  
Was January one, in sixty-two;  
An' no old timer livin' 'round here  
Has ever forgotten that cold New Year.

When the sun came up and bust into view  
It was so all-fired cold, it had most turned blue;  
And the air was congealed an' so thick if you please,  
It hed to be thawed to breathe it with ease.

An' the candle I lit as I hopped from the bed,  
Hed it's flame frozen solid 'fore it turned red;  
An' when I tried kindlin' a fire, I thought we were lost,  
For the slumbering hot embers were covered with frost.

An' when I stirred up the embers an' poked 'em about,  
I hed to thaw out the pipe 'fore the smoke could get out;  
An' when I had the ol' kitchen stove boomin' red hot,  
The icicles were still hangin' from the ol' coffee pot.

An' when I went to the door to put the key in the lock,  
The keyhole was frozen as hard as a rock;  
An' I had to take a flatiron an hit it a jolt,  
'Fore I could put in the key to turn over the bolt.

An' when I opened the door an' went outside,  
Ol' Tower frozen stiff was the first thing I spied.  
An' I carried him in an' laid him on the hot stove  
An' it was an hour or more 'fore he could move.

'An when he thawed out, there came a deep roar,  
Of barks he had barked the evening before.  
For the sounds were all frozen, an' the clock on the shelf  
Ticked for three days, 'fore it caught up with itself.

An' when I went out to milk after breakfast was o'er  
It hed frozen the horns off the cows, a dozen or more,  
An' I hed to build a fire an' heat their udders red hot,  
'Fore a drap of milk could be got.

An' when the milk was thawed so it came in a stream,  
I took in ten buckets of pure ice cream;  
An' the chickens were hopping about on icicle legs,  
An' the hens that survived, laid hard frozen eggs.

An' the horses stood rigid in well sheltered stall,  
With jaws frozen shut, 'til they couldn't eat at all;  
An' the hogs were all frozen from tail to ring,  
An' never thawed out 'til the following spring.

An' the deer on the plains were a pitiful sight,  
Where they stood on the prairie frozen upright;  
An' we left 'em preserved in the sheltered windbreaks,  
Where we went each day for nice frozen steaks.

An' the thermometers went down as far as they could go,  
An' busted through their bottoms at seventy below;  
An' the record of that day stands out alone,  
As the coldest New Year that ever was known.

An' the settler that told us, said he'd heer'n tell,  
That it was the coldest day ever known in—well  
Every place known to common Illinois folks  
Who recognize facts, an' jokes as jokes.

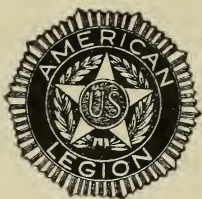






# ADVERTISEMENTS

# Ira Owen Kreager Post, No. 384



## American Legion

HOOPESTON,

ILLINOIS

---

“For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order, to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the great war; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of Justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual happiness.”

---

‘A LIVE POST WITH A LIVE PROGRAM’

# C. & E. I.

(Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railway)

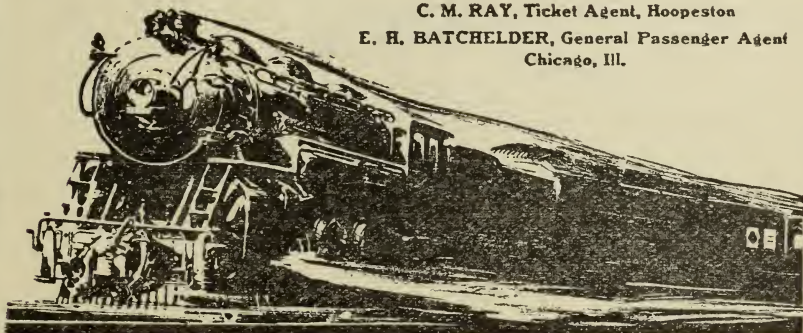
**Since 1871  
Hoopeston's  
principal means  
of communication**

**North  
*and*  
South**

Ten fast trains daily provide the utmost in convenient, on-time service between Chicago and Hoopeston. Hundred-pound rails—rock ballasted, double and triple track—powerful locomotives—modern equipment and courteous employees.

Luxurious through daily trains over the famous Dixie Route to Nashville, Chattanooga, Atlanta, and Jacksonville. Through service also to Birmingham, Montgomery, Mobile and along the scenic Gulf Coast to New Orleans. Daily service to St. Louis affording direct connections to all points in the Southwest.

C. M. RAY, Ticket Agent, Hoopeston  
E. H. BATCHELDER, General Passenger Agent  
Chicago, Ill.







SPRAGUE-SELLS  
*Corporation*

*Manufacturers of*

PEA, CORN, TOMATO and FRUIT

*Canning Machinery*

*Hoopeston, Illinois*



SAFETY

SECURITY

# FIRST NATIONAL BANK

HOOPESTON, ILLINOIS

SOUNDNESS

SERVICE

# HOOPESTON CANNING COMPANY

Established 1878

Packers of

**FANCY SWEET CORN**

Production 350,000 Cases Yearly

Established 1878

# The Illinois Canning Co.

Packers of

Fancy Sugar Corn and

"JOAN OF ARC"

Red Kidney

Beans

Hoopeston, Illinois

*Lorraine Theatre*

*Hoopeston, Illinois*

*McFerren Opera House*

*Hoopeston, Illinois*



## Collum & Orr

## Theatres

*Blackstone Theatre*

*Dwight, Illinois*

*Edna Theatre*

*Gibson City, Illinois*



# The Chronicle-Herald

---

Published Daily by

The Aldrich Printing & Publishing Co.

Since 1872

---

**Hoopeston's Community Newspaper**

United Press Direct Wire Service

**"First in Hoopeston"**

---

Large Job Plant in Connection

---

Modern Machinery and Expert Workmanship  
insures speedy and capable handling of  
your printing needs

---

## Reliability Plus Service

201 East Main Street.

Phone No. 3

*The Central Clearing House of Intelligent Activities*

Co-operation

Harmony

Ambition

Municipal

Benefits

Efficiency

Right-Living

Obligation

Fidelity

Community

Organization

Merchandising

Management

Enterprise

Results

Concentration

Enthusiasm



*Are You Helping Support the Torch of  
Civic Consciousness?*

*The  
Illif-Bruff Chemical  
Company*

*Manufacturers of*

*SNOW WHITE PHOSPHATE  
and Other Chemical Products*

*Hoopeston, Illinois*

*Those who  
ELECTRIFY  
attain  
EFFICIENCY*



**Central Illinois  
Public Service Company**



# Hoopeston National Bank

---

Pres. I. E. Merritt

V. Pres. J. H. Dyer

Cashier, L. W. Singleton

Ass't. Cash. E. E. Yates

---

Coy Burton

G. H. Finch

Alma Yates

Edith Kellogg

---

Interest Paid on Time Deposits

Careful Attention Given to All Business

Safety Deposit Boxes for Rent

Courteous Treatment to All

---

## Come and See Us







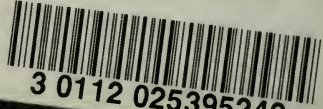








UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA  
977.365C83H C001  
A HISTORY OF HOOPESTON HOOPESTON



3 0112 025395242